UNIVERSITY RANKINGS '06

MACLEAN'S

NOV. 13th 2006

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MACLEAN'S

VOLUME 119 NUMBER 45, NOVEMBER 13, 2006 · SINCE 1889

NOVEMBER 13-20, 2006

University Issue '06

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Personal University Ranking Tool Find out which university best suits your interests and demands by customizing our rankings with your own weighting and criteria. ***www.macleans.ca/university***

Savage Washington Luiza Ch. Savage blogs on this month's U.S. congressional elections. ***www.macleans.ca/luizasavage***

Behind the Scene Veteran film critic Brian D. Johnson blogs on the movie world. ***www.macleans.ca/behindthescene***

University Issue '06

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Liberal Leadership Count down to the convention with our special section featuring interviews commentary by Paul Wells and articles by the candidates themselves ***www.macleans.ca/liberalrace***

Weekday Update Scott Feschuk's audioblog offers his unique take on each day's headlines ***www.macleans.ca/feschuk***

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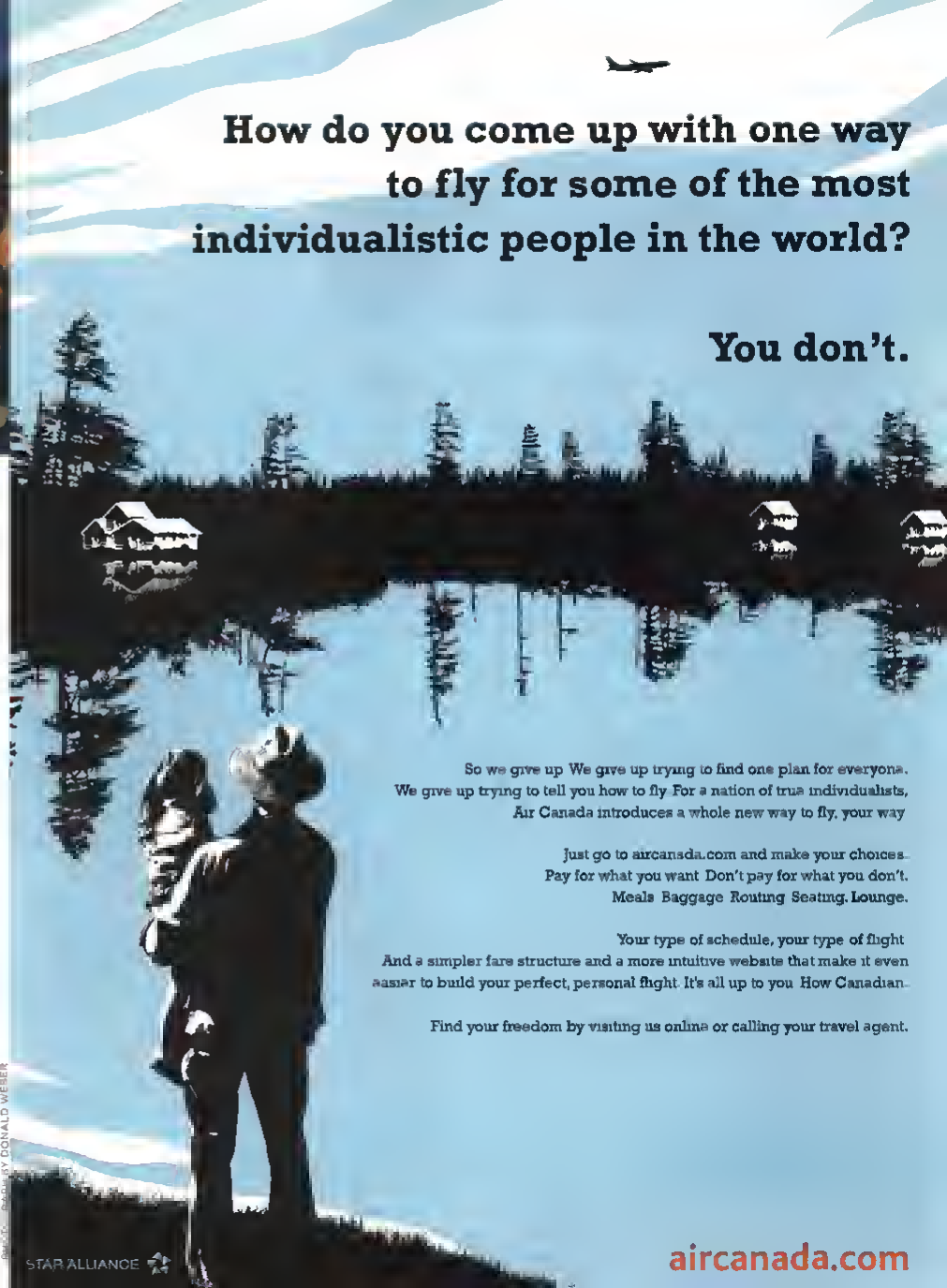


EVALUATING our universities is an essential service for students and their parents

And now—our biggest rankings issue ever

On this, the 16th anniversary of *Maclean's* definitive ranking of Canadian universities, we offer our largest issue ever, examining and evaluating Canada's universities from more angles than ever before. Our national survey of academics, high school principals, guidance counsellors, and business leaders offers an independent assessment of the reputations of Canada's universities. We have compiled results from three major national surveys of 54,000 students and recent graduates who were asked to evaluate their universities and the quality of their educational experience. Most of this information on student satisfaction was withheld from the public until *Maclean's* began asking for it (and, in some cases, applying freedom of information law to gain its release). The issue is capped by our exclusive annual university rankings—47 institutions measured across two dozen indicators, ranging from entering grades to faculty quality, from library resources to class sizes.

As you may have heard, this issue has been the focus of considerable controversy. Last spring, our decision to ask for universities' student satisfaction surveys, with the intention of making them public, was met with opposition from many schools. In August and September, in the run-up to this issue, half of Canada's universities abruptly announced they would withhold the information about their operations that they have been releasing to *Maclean's*, and to the general public, for the past 15 years. They have since claimed that the methodology we employ is flawed, and that rankings are inherently unfair.

The methodology complaint is fatuous. Reasonable people might disagree on how best to construct a ranking—which data to use, and how much weight to give each particular measure—but the *Maclean's* rankings were developed over 15 years of close consultation with many of the very same universities now expressing dissatisfaction. The truth is that the *Maclean's* system is as fair and comprehensive as any university ranking in the English language.

We are not altogether unsympathetic to the argument that rankings are inherently unfair. They can never capture all the nuances and complexities in an institution's performance. It would be folly to present the *Maclean's* survey as the last word on the worth of a university. But rankings are nonetheless an essential tool. Canadians are the world's most educated people (or at least the most schooled). According to the OECD, 41 per cent of Canadians aged 35 to 65 have a college or university degree, and among those 25 to 34, the level is 53 per cent. We are spending an enormous amount of time and money supporting, promoting, funding, expanding, and undertaking higher education. We need to know where the value lies, but Canadians have very few sources of reliable information and impartial judgment on university performance. *Maclean's* has become an essential source for students and their parents, in part because of the paucity of national, audited information.

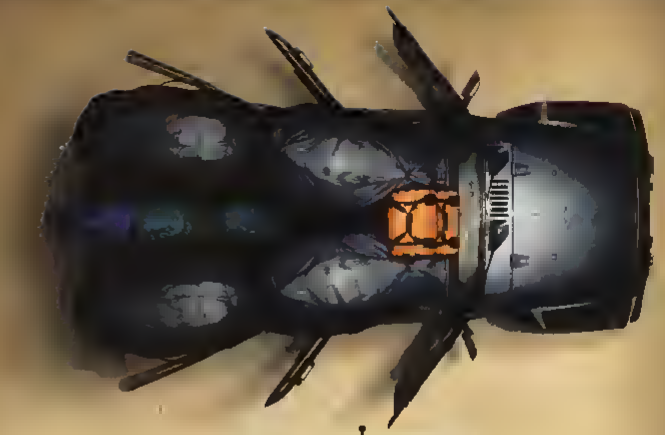
We find it strange that some of Canada's leading universities, whose presidents talk incessantly about the need to be internationally competitive, refuse to provide us information when the best American and European universities are pleased to participate in rankings (often, we might add, in far less rigorous surveys than ours). It baffles us that many Canadian universities, otherwise dedicated to seeking truth by scientific inquiry, fail to see the need for dispassionate, disinterested, evidence-based evaluations of their performance. Some of their presidents, it would seem, only want to be accountable on their own terms. David Naylor, president of the University of Toronto, claims to be in favour of the highest levels of openness (see page 19), yet he has been chief architect of the recent movement to reduce and control information made available to prospective students and the public at large.

Fortunately, some academic leaders recognize the value of disclosure and accountability. "We want to be as accountable as we can," McGill principal Heather Munroe-Blum told her university senate last month. "Benchmarking is of enormous public interest. It speaks to an appetite the public has in measuring quality and impact."

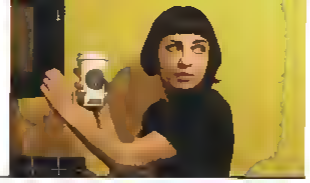
On a similar note, outgoing University of British Columbia president Martha Piper told *The Tyee* magazine that the *Maclean's* rankings had done the school a service by publishing data that pointed out, year after year, that UBC had very large class sizes. "We were looking at class size and finding they were bigger than at many other universities. And the question I posed was 'why was that?'" said Piper. "I think that's the power of using rankings as an indicator—of learning some things you wouldn't have known otherwise, and then asking 'Can we do better?'"

Doing better is the point of the ranking exercise. As the motto of York University says, "The Way Must Be Tried." That is why *Maclean's* ranking of Canadian universities exists: to help students choose a university, of course, but also to help the public understand what is going on inside one of Canada's largest and most expensive public services, one of our economy's key drivers of prosperity and perhaps our society's most important engine of social progress. We promise our readers it will continue to exist as the most comprehensive and reliable ranking in Canada, with or without the direct co-operation of the universities themselves. M

The *Maclean's* university rankings have been around for a decade and a half, but this year marks the first time that you can use the *Maclean's* data to create your own ranking, instantly, with the new online Personalized University Ranking Tool. At *www.macleans.ca/university*, you can create a university assessment tailored to your specifications, by simply choosing the measures of university quality that matter most to you. We hope that the online tool, like this issue of the magazine, will become a trusted and essential source for anyone beginning their search for a university.



'Starbucks uses linguistics to elevate the status of a cup of coffee'



LOST IN CYBERSPACE?

I READ with interest your article about the World Wide Web ("The Internet sucks," Society, Oct. 30) I agree that most of what's there is a waste of cyberspace I think the Internet is right up there with television, and even radio, in terms of promises not kept However, I recently spent several years in China, leaving my family here, and I couldn't have kept in touch without email In the area of personal communications, the Net wins hands down
Pat Whidden, Maitland, N.S.

PLEASE TELL writer Steve Maich that the Internet doesn't suck, it is the pornographers, gamblers, liars, thieves and terrorists who suck The Internet is merely the medium they use to communicate
Dr Cleaver Keenan, New Liskeard, Ont

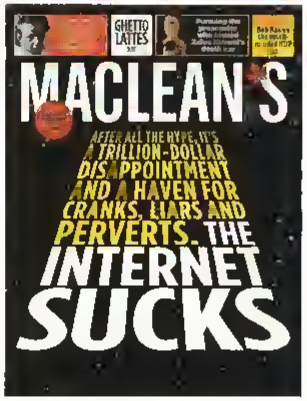
UNDOUBTEDLY, the Internet is being abused for all sorts of evil, most of which, I must add, was available long ago But you needed some balance I'm a retired academic and a couple of years ago, I decided to write a textbook Of course, it required research. Thanks to my online access to all the resources of the McMaster University library and other well-established databases, I hardly ever had to leave my home office When it came time to publish, everything was submitted and edited instantly online, including the illustrations that were prepared by a colleague working from her home in Nova Scotia
Ron Davidson, Ancaster, Ont

I NOTICED the good the Internet does was left out of the article Worldwide charities raised more than US$1 2 billion for tsunami relief in 2004 I am ashamed to say I likely wouldn't have donated had I not been able to do it online
Kevin Miller, Oakville, Ont

PERHAPS I am in the minority, however, at least three of your recent covers have used black backgrounds, and doom and gloom cover lines Not only does this turn me off, but it makes me question whether your editorial department could use some antidepressants
Judy MacCorquodale, Regina

"THE INTERNET SUCKS" is not the kind of headline I expected to see on the cover of *Maclean's* I expect to see a mature, intelligent approach to news Let's hope your twenty and thirtysomething staff do not help destroy this once great magazine.
John Bubric, Calgary

I'M DISAPPOINTED in your Oct 30 issue I didn't get a subscription to *Maclean's* to find a snappier, chippier version of the *Toronto Star*.
Frank Hilliard, Grand Forks, B C



COMING TO THE END

AT FIRST, I was surprised to see that your final page was about the life and death of a cat named Bean (The End, Oct 30) Then, in reading the piece, I discovered Bean had an everlasting impact on his owners, and even met movie stars His tragic death left everyone in the waterfront district of Shelburne, N S , heartbroken If Bean didn't merit an article, then I don't know who does
Chris Bandoro, Ottawa

WOW, JUST when I thought The End could not get more irrelevant, you managed to plum new depths with Bean Will you be seeking submissions on pet goldfish next?
Stewart Bailey, Ottawa

I JUST READ about Marlene Potash and her struggle to survive after losing her son (The End, Oct. 23) My brother took his own life this past May after battling depression, bipolar disease and anxiety for more than 10 years In the past two years, his wife couldn't deal with it anymore and moved My parents and I helped him on many occasions, getting groceries and prescriptions The week he took his life by swallowing pills, my mother and father were both hospitalized My dad died I found my brother when I went to tell him He left a note saying he was an evil person and dependent on everyone for every thing I wish I could have been there for him during those last days I just felt compelled to share this after reading the story
Carolyn Bauer, Ossining, N Y

COFFEE BREAK

YOUR ARTICLE on people making ghetto lattes at Starbucks was hilarious ("A latte people stick it to Starbucks," Bazaar, Oct. 30) Overcharging the public by $2 50 or so for a so called barista to add a couple of ounces of cream is simply stealing I have never seen these coffees actually being brewed, either They come out of big Thermoses, however nicely decorated It's time the public figured out it is being overcharged by an American company through linguistic attempts to elevate the status of a cup of coffee Starbucks has marketed a beverage to the insecure as an element of status If you aren't seen clutching your $6 caffeine firmly in one hand while gabbing on your cellphone with the other, then baby you just haven't made it!
Mary MacDonald, Etobicoke, Ont

RAE DAYS

BOB RAE is absolutely wrong when he says that the New Democrats don't understand the role of markets in creating prosperity ("Why I left the Left behind," National, Oct 30) I don't know what NDP Rae is talking about, but it isn't the NDP of Gary Doer in Manitoba or Lorne Calvert in Saskatchewan, who have run back-to-back balanced budgets since they were elected. And it certainly isn't the NDP of Jack Layton, who added investments in education, the environment and housing to an unbalanced Liberal budget The fact is that data from the federal department of finance shows that NDP governments—not Liberal ones—have had the best record of balancing the books over the past two decades The NDP believes that prosperity and social justice are two sides of the same coin We understand that the private sector plays a vital role in our economy, and under Layton, the NDP has run on platforms that recognize that It is grossly insincere for Rae to criticize the NDP today, considering that less than 12 months ago, he was writing cheques to support NDP candidates in the federal election
Judy Wasylycia-Leis, MP, Winnipeg North, Finance Critic, New Democratic Party of Canada

I TOO LEFT THE NDP—to run unsuccessfully for the Canadian Action Party in the federal election of November 2000—but it was because of Bob Rae's "Social Contract" and the election of Mike Harris and his "Common Sense Revolution" that led to chaos in Ontario for a decade The continuous rhetoric of Rae, spouting the mantra of the elimination of the deficit and the return of real fiscal strength, sounds like the double-speak of the two main parties It's like having to choose between Coke and Pepsi Federally, I hope that Jack Layton and the NDP will continue to fight for what represents the only voice in Parliament for the common person
Art Jaszczyk, Thornhill, Ont

DOES BOB RAE think we all suffer from amnesia? I remember him undermining Joe Clark Then there was the infamous accord with David Peterson to defeat Frank Miller Then we had his five years of socialist government in Ontario when the debt was increased by $50 billion for which we are still paying Our already high welfare rates were increased by 17 per cent and we were referred to as "welfare heaven" And now he very cleverly tries to blame those years on the recession? In all his time in politics, I can't think of one good thing Rae has done for our finances or for the economy
James Marvin, Toronto

'Bean had an everlasting impact on his owners. If he didn't merit an article, then I don't know who does.'

IN HIS GLORY DAYS Rae's sharp left turn won cheers from NDP supporters in Ontario

RON BULL/TORONTO STAR

'A PIECE OF CANADA'

I WAS IMPRESSED by your attempt to initiate a Parliamentarian of the Year Award ("A time to celebrate Parliament at its best," From the Editors, Oct 16) It is such a positive statement and such a good creative idea I commend you highly I think there are far too many Canadians who are quick to curse the darkness but slow to light a candle They know everything that is wrong with our country but do not have any sensible suggestions as to making things better I am an old friend of *Maclean's* I read it regularly in the library at Dalhousie University For me, the magazine was always like a piece of Canada Over the years many MPs were my personal friends, some were characters, but all were great Canadians Again, congratulations
Dr Donald C MacMahon, Calgary

TIME WARP

IN THE BOX on the bottom of a Science page ("No intra species dating allowed," Way out there, Oct 30), you refer to H G Wells's 1895 book *The Time Traveller* The novel's protagonist is called the Time Traveller The title of the book is *The Time Machine*, beloved by many and adapted into two films, including the great 1960 movie with Rod Taylor
Frank Ninivaggi, New York

COVERING UP THE COLD TRUTH?

A Canadian man disappears on a ski trip and his family seeks answers from the Austrian resort for 14 years When his body is finally uncovered, so is a harsh reality

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Stephen Gregory
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MANAGER, ACCOUNT CREATIVE
Laura Denton

Administration

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Lorne de Kneller

ADVERTISING SALES
Toronto:
(416) 764 1300
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VICE PRESIDENT, SALES
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Jenifer Giaffi
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Montreal
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Editorial department
(416) 764 1339
Fax (416) 764 1332

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Publications Mail Agreement #: 40069235
Registration No. 09073

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada, through the Publications Assistance Program (PAP) and the Canada Magazine Fund, toward our mailing and editorial costs

U.S. POSTMASTER:
Periodicals postage paid at Niagara Falls, NY. USPS 696-710. Office 2929 Niagara Falls Blvd., Niagara Falls, NY 14304-1068. Send address changes (form 3579) to Maclean's P.O. Box 4541, Buffalo, NY 14240

Printed in Canada by Quebecor World Inc.

Audit Bureau Member
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A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF BRIG.-GEN. DAVID FRASER

On Wednesday, after an eight-month turn as commander of NATO's troops in southern Afghanistan, Fraser handed over the post to Dutch Maj.-Gen. Ton Van Loon. In a parting interview from Kandahar, Fraser told reporters "the environment here is more dangerous than I've seen anywhere else in the world." Still, he said, the Afghan people "deserve nothing less than our international community's 100 per cent commitment." Fraser will return to Edmonton to be with his family.

Good news

He's all talk

Three weeks after exploding a nuclear bomb, a formerly defiant Kim Jong Il has agreed to sit down and discuss a diplomatic end to his weapons program. North Korea's surprise about-face, which came after an informal meeting with American and Chinese officials, means the Communist regime will rejoin the six-nations disarmament talks after a year of boycotting the process. U.S. President George W. Bush said he was "very pleased" with the news, but cautioned that the ultimate goal is still "a North Korea that abandons her nuclear weapons programs and nuclear weapons in a verifiable fashion in return for a better way forward for her people." That is still a long way off, but at least Pyongyang is at the table.

One down...

The best legal job in B.C. may be that of Aboriginal treaty negotiator, arguing complaints with faint hope of resolution that lead to infinite billable hours. That may change, however, with the initialling on Oct. 29 of the first-ever final agreement reached since the B.C. Treaty Commission was formed in 1992. Premier Gordon Campbell called the deal "a significant milestone in the history of reconciliation of First Nations rights and title." The settlement must still be ratified by a community vote before legislation is passed by the province and the federal government. Talks continue with more than 40 other bands. But one thing at a time.

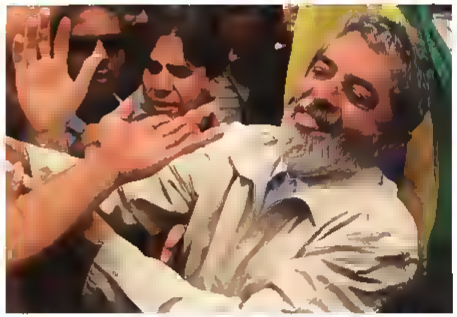
Italy's own Houdini

Silvio Berlusconi, the former Italian prime minister, is returning to his second home: the defendant's chair. Italy's richest man, Berlusconi has been in a cat-and-mouse game with prosecutors for years. He has been charged with various offences, though never convicted. While in office, he passed a law making top political officials, including himself, immune from prosecution. That law was struck down in 2004, and Berlusconi lost last April's election. And this week, an Italian court ruled he must stand trial on corruption charges, related to allegations that he channelled at least US$700,000 to a British lawyer nine years ago in return for false testimony in two previous court cases involving Berlusconi's media empire.

Science scores!

Researchers at the University of Calgary cracked one of the enduring mysteries of sports this week by identifying the key to successful goaltending in hockey. The discovery of the "quiet eye" phenomenon was announced this week. As the press release explains, "simply put, they found that goalies should keep their eyes on the puck." Nothing gets past these guys.

FACE OF THE WEEK



BRAZIL'S populist President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva won a landslide victory in the second round of national voting last weekend

VICTOR R. CAIVANO/AP

Bad news

Sound the alarm

The climate situation is bad. But how bad is bad? According to an alarming new report endorsed by British PM Tony Blair, unless world leaders address the issue immediately, climate change could result in economic disruption on a scale similar to the Great Depression. The 700-page report, written by Sir Nicholas Stern, a former World Bank chief economist, said the relatively short-term ramifications of climate change include a 20 per cent drop in world GDP, a cost of US$7 trillion to the world economy, hundreds of millions of displaced refugees, and mass water shortages. Blair has called for "bold and decisive action." Other global warming experts, however, remain skeptical about Stern's methodology. Richard Tol of Ireland's Economic and Social Research Institute called Stern's report "alarmist and incompetent."

Food wars

A 1996 World Food Summit pledge by 185 countries to significantly reduce world hunger by 2015 has been a massive failure, according to a UN Food and Agricultural Organization report released Monday. "Far from decreasing," said Jacques Diouf of the FAO, "the number of hungry people in the world is currently increasing at the rate of four million a year." Mounting global tensions are exacerbating the problem, the report suggests. Currently, undernourishment and "food security" in North Korea are more acute problems than in any other part of Asia.

Rage in Marseille

A French government report leaked to the press last week warning of another violent round of youth protests turned out to be all too prescient. This past weekend saw a number of gruesome incidents believed to have been perpetrated by youths protesting systemic racism in the country. In Marseille, a gang of young people threw a bottle of flammable liquid into a bus, causing a fire that left a 26-year-old woman with burns to 70 per cent of her body. In Grenoble, youths hurled stones onto windshields from a bridge, sending the driver of a tram to the hospital with glass splinters in his eyes.

Dr. Whoever

Who needs med school? Increasingly, people are relying on the Internet to diagnose their medical conditions and those of their loved ones. Overwhelmingly, however, they fail to ensure that the information they're receiving is reputable. A new survey from the Pew Internet Project found that roughly 10 million U.S. adults seek out health information online on a given day. But only four per cent of "frequently visited" health websites disclose their information sources. The rest is anyone's guess. M

CAPITAL DIARY

MITCHEL RAPHAEL ON IGNATIEFF'S NEIGHBOUR AND JASON KENNEY'S SCARY HALLOWEEN

QUEEN SILVIA plants a tree, (inset) the Duke of Connaught

THIS IS HOW IGNATIEFF IS WOOING QUEBEC?

The latest Liberal House seating plan has four of the leadership contenders sitting next to the Bloc. In fact, each shares a two-person desk with a separatist. When **Stéphane Dion** helped push the controversial Clarity Act through Parliament, he and his family required RCMP bodyguards. Meanwhile, fellow leadership contender **Michael Ignatieff** and his supporters recently pushed for the Quebec wing of the party to pass a resolution recognizing Quebec as a nation, thus upping his popularity in *la belle province*. So what do their House neighbours think of these potential leaders? Ignatieff sits next to **Roger Gaudet** (Montcalm), who says he finds Ignatieff to be in his own world during Question Period. The only thing Ignatieff ever says to Gaudet is "*bonjour*," not a word more. Meanwhile, two rows down, Dion sits beside the Bloc's deputy whip, **Pauline Picard** (Drummond). She says the "civilized" Dion is a "gentleman." When he first sat beside her she thought she could be sitting next to a future prime minister. The two often chat during Question Period and discuss what the Conservatives are doing. While they disagree about separatism, says Picard, "we do get along."

SOME HALLOWEEN KISSES PLEASE. OOPS.

Last week, MPs packed the West Block to get into Hilloween, the annual event at which they can stock up on candy courtesy of the Confectionery Manufacturers Association of Canada. Unfortunately, the parliamentary secretary to the Prime Minister, **Jason Kenney**, was mistakenly in line for the event next door, a party for the Canadian Labour Congress celebrating the passing of second reading of anti-scab legislation Bill C-257. Kenney voted against the bill, but a name tag from the CLC was waiting for him. Kenney looked at the tag, realized what event it was and quickly bolted to the less scary Hilloween to get his loot bag.

SORRY, NO SHRUBS ALLOWED, EVEN FOR SWEDISH ROYALS

As **King Carl XVI Gustaf** and **Queen Silvia** of Sweden (home of IKEA) arrived at Rideau Hall, one observer quipped: "Thanks to the Swedes we all have 20 Allen keys sitting in our drawers." Their majesties went on to "plant" a tree on the grounds. The Swedish royals had asked for an American elderberry, but the National Capital Commission told them that it was actually a shrub that would grow only to a maximum of 3.5 m. An eastern white pine was chosen instead, which can grow to 50 m. The trees are actually planted well ahead of time to ensure that they take, then a circle is cleared under the tree to make it look fresh and a pile of dirt set up beside it. The king shovelled first, then the queen got into it. "It's all about gender equality," quipped the Governor General. The Swedish royals' official state dinner was the first such event since **Michaëlle Jean** took office. Afghan President **Hamid Karzai** only got a private dinner and the president of Latvia got a lunch. The dinner menu for the Swedish royals included Rankin Inlet caribou tenderloin and five Canadian cheeses (two from Quebec, one each from New Brunswick, Ontario, and B.C.). During her speech, Jean acknowledged famous Swedes like Toronto Maple Leafs captain **Mats Sundin** and celebs of Swedish descent like "Anakin Skywalker" a.k.a. **Hayden Christensen**. But the greatest Swedish-Canadian connection noted was the **Duke of Connaught**, the son of **Queen Victoria** and **Prince Albert**, who was Canada's governor general from 1911 to 1916. His daughter married **Prince Gustav Adolf** of Sweden. "She was therefore His Majesty's grandmother, and my predecessor was his great grandfather," noted Jean.

WATCH OUT NAOMI CAMPBELL

Two MPs worked the runway as part of a fashion show held by the Chinese embassy. The event showed off hot looks representing 56 ethnic groups in China. Tory MP **Rahim Jaffer** (Edmonton-Strathcona) and Bloc Québécois MP **Luc Malo** (Verchères-Les Patriotes) who are among the best dressed of their respective parties, were two of the 62 models. The embassy graciously emailed Capital Diary photos from their official Hotmail account. M

ON THE WEB: For Ottawa outtakes, visit **www.macleans.ca/mitchelraphael**

MODEL CHINESE: Tory MP Rahim Jaffer (left) on the runway

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Old dogs, old tricks, and a PM curiously unruffled

PAUL WELLS

Will everybody calm down about Belinda Stronach if somebody refers to a Liberal *man* as a dog? All nighty then: here's Jean Lapierre, Paul Martin's hand-picked Quebec lieutenant in 1990 and 2004, returning to his strategy of constitutional blackmail like a dog to its vomit.

Lapierre has taken to darkly warning Liberals that they must not fail to pass a resolution "recognizing" the Quebec "nation." "Every time the Liberal Party of Canada has refused to recognize Quebec's difference, it has cost us dearly," Lapierre told reporters last week. "In the period of the distinct society"—i.e. when the Meech Lake accord was collapsing in 1990—"the Liberal party refused to recognize that and it led to the Bloc Québécois."

Readers should avoid being misled by Lapierre's use of the pronoun "it." In this instance, "it" means "I." Lapierre walked out of the Liberal party in 1990 and helped *found* the Bloc. Now Lapierre is essentially levelling the same threat. Usually when history repeats itself, it gets new players. This time it's like those stunt revivals of *The Odd Couple* they used to do with Walter Matthau playing Oscar again.

All of this is happening because Michael Ignatieff landed fresh off the boat and didn't get properly briefed on the distinction between those two subtle Canadian concepts, a "good idea" and a "really freaking bad idea." As a direct result, the Liberal party is tying itself in knots over whether, and how, to "recognize" the Quebec "nation" in the Constitution.

Of course, the Ignatieff camp indignantly replies that their man has no interest in reopening the Constitution. Which is why Ignatieff said, during the Quebec City leadership debate: "'To constitutionally recognize Quebec as a nation is difficult.' Well, yes it is difficult, but it has to be done." Oops. So maybe he is interested in reopening the Constitution. Never mind.

What's interesting about this whole debate is that none of it has touched Stephen Harper, who was still the Prime Minister of Canada, last I checked. He won't let the word "nation" pass his lips when it comes to Quebec. Yet Montreal columnists who are furious at the Liberals for raising, then debating, Quebec's status can't spare a moment's scorn for Harper.

If an existential debate over Quebec can be ignored at no cost, that's proof it's not serious

I will lose valuable Friendly Anglo points in Quebec for saying this, but what the heck: if an existential debate over Quebec's place in Canada can be ignored without cost by the governing party, that's the proof that it's not a serious issue.

And the party of trivial issues these days is the Liberal Party of Canada.

For the past two weeks, Ralph Goodale, who used to get handed the tough cabinet portfolios by Jean Chretien and Paul Martin, has been up every day in the House of Commons trying to prove that one Liberal MP, the above-mentioned Belinda Stronach, was called a "dog" by her former steady date, Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay. Ralph Goodale used to be in charge of Canada's natural resources. He wrote a budget last year, and then, because Paul Martin was his boss, he wrote another one a few weeks later and a third in the taxi on the way home. He *used*, in other words, to obsess about the real lives of real Canadians. But for an unconscionably long time this autumn he was reduced to defending Stronach's honour.

Cards on table: as far as I'm concerned, MacKay did call Stronach a dog. It was boorish of him. He should have apologized. His refusal to do so speaks ill of him. There. How long did that take—about eight seconds?

With a gun to my head I couldn't figure out how to make that argument last half a month. Especially not if I was *supposed* to be concentrating on how Canadians might be better governed. Somehow the Liberal party has become an oddly whimsical club, devoted lately for the most part to appeasing Jean Lapierre and protecting Belinda Stronach. Somebody else can look out for the little guy; this crew is on the side of talk-radio hosts and heiresses.

Yet there is a market in this country for a serious party interested in serious things. The Harper government has stalled, perhaps not irreversibly but stubbornly, in its attempts to grow its appeal beyond the narrow coalition that gave the Conservatives a fingernail hold on power in January. Harper's foreign policy and disdain for serious environmental policy have cost him enough support in Quebec to jeopardize every one of his 10 seats there. It's hard to imagine him winning a majority if an election comes in the next few months.

But Harper is dug in deeply enough that it's also hard to imagine him losing much ground outside Quebec. He remains the Keith's India Pale Ale of political leaders: those who like him, like him a lot. This is partly because his government seems preoccupied with the real lives of real Canadians. Whereas the Liberals are stuck in virtual reality. It will be their next leader's job to haul them down to earth. M

ON THE WEB: For more Paul Wells, visit his blog at **www.macleans.ca/inklesswells**

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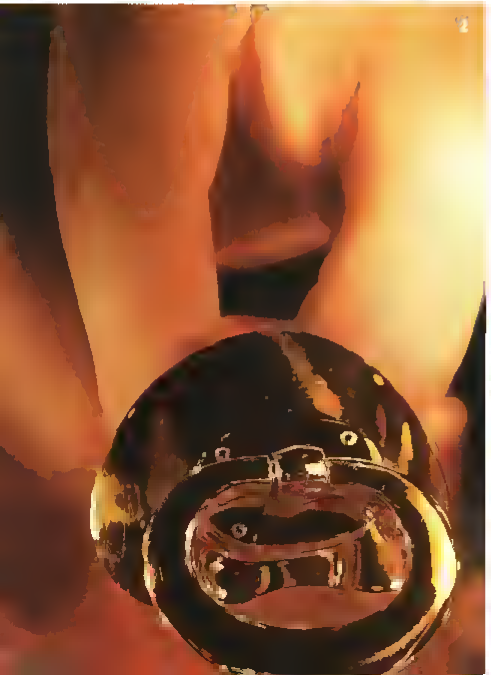
FRANK GUNN/CP



MILLIONAIRE FAIR IN MOSCOW

This four-day exhibit of luxury goods—ranging from vintage cars and jewellery to designer furniture and pedigree horses—was held for the second time in Moscow. When Yves Gijrath, who founded the fair in 2002, was asked what makes Russia's super-rich different from the rich elsewhere, he had a short answer: "They spend more."

1 Visitors smoke cigars at the Millionaire Fair

2 A baby's soother, crafted in gold, is displayed

3 At the opening ceremonies, horses were on display

4 A table set for billionaires, according to *Forbes*: Russia has 44

5 Arms and the man: a security guard sits beside a vintage car

6 A couple ogle the ultra-expensive jewellery

7 The GoldVish mobile phone is covered with diamonds

CLOCKWISE FROM FAR TOP LEFT: DENIS SINYAKOV/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; MIKHAIL METZEL/AP; ALEXANDER NATRUSKIN/REUTERS; DENIS SINYAKOV/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; FOMICHEV MICHAIL/TASS; FOMICHEV MICHAIL/TASS; DENIS SINYAKOV/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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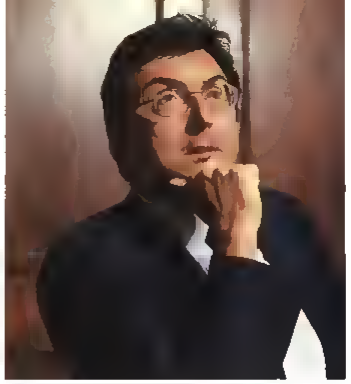

'This concept that high school students are systematically ill-prepared has a whiff of old fogeyism about it'

DAVID NAYLOR, PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, TALKS TO KATE FILLION ABOUT RANKINGS, MONEY, CLASS SIZE AND MERYL STREEP

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SIMON HAYTER

Q: *How do you think our high schools are doing in terms of preparing students for university?*

A: Virtually every generation of professors is convinced secondary schools are deteriorating. I suppose this is inevitable, this view that, "Well, I struggled off to an extraordinarily rigorous school through 10-foot-high snow drifts, fending off polar bears and wolves on the way." But a few things reassure me. One, I don't see a dramatic deterioration in grades given in undergraduate courses in arts and sciences. From 1976 to 2006, the proportion of A's has gone from around 17 per cent to about 28 per cent. Two, we're certainly taking [incoming] students with higher averages. This might be grade inflation. But if the student body really was deteriorating, it seems to me we would have a rapidly deteriorating pace of innovation in our society, that the level of creative discourse would be stunted, and we would not have the blossoming of culture, at all levels, that's very obvious in the Western world. Now, people may not like modern culture. Old fogeys are alienated by the younger generation's cultural preferences, decade after decade. And this concept that high school students are systematically ill-prepared, there's a whiff of old fogeyism about it.

Q: *But about 300 students at New College, just one of U of T's seven colleges, are on academic probation because they can't handle the work. Isn't that a danger sign?*

A: We've put money into writing workshops and we're very strongly focused on making sure that students who've hit some bumps get support. I don't see it as a negative that we're willing to put funds into remediation. U of T is unabashedly somewhat elitist in its academic standards. We take some really capable students, but we're also a big place and we're going to have some students who aren't as strong.

Q: *Are you in favour of standardized testing of high school students?*

A: Whenever I confess to those instincts, some of my colleagues in the educational policy realm accuse me of being a neanderthal. But I am positively predisposed toward standardized testing. Many universities are asking themselves hard questions about focusing on entering grade point averages, and that may be one of the perverse effects of ranking systems, such as *Maclean's*, that reward institutions for their selectivity.

Q: *You withdrew from the* Maclean's *university rankings because you have a problem with the way dissimilar data are aggregated, and the fact that a single number is assigned to each university. So are you going to stop issuing report cards with GPAs?*

A: That's a remarkably specious analogy.

Q: *I think it's a good one. Both aggregate dissimilar data and assign single numerical rankings.*

A: But in the case of students, they know in advance exactly what the aggregation will be, and they're able to exercise some choice about what courses they take. The real analogy here is not the GPA of the individual student. It's as if you took the individual student, took the GPA of his or her entire class, then weighted it arbitrarily: oh, we'll give more marks to those who sat on the far side of the room.

Q: *The weighting in the rankings isn't any more arbitrary than the subjectivity in any marking scheme. Professors mark differently from each other, and the chemistry course may be a lot harder than the English course.*

A: So you're willing to face an employer knowing that your GPA reflects not your personal effort but rather reflects your class? That's analogous to what happens when a department of history or a faculty of medicine is [lumped] with all the other departments and faculties and some overall aggregate score is produced with arbitrary weighting. It's meaningless to students who have to pick a department or faculty or program. And to me, the problem with rankings is that they reduce everything to a single first-past-the-post number.

Q: *U of T is the largest university in the country, by far. Would it be easier to provide high quality education if there were fewer students?*

A: It would definitely be advantageous if we could address the student-staff ratio. We simply don't have the number of faculty and staff we need to provide the type of direct interaction students deserve, and that's felt

right across Ontario, and to a slightly lesser extent it's a problem right across Canada. The big advantage American institutions have right now is the simple numbers of faculty they have on the ground. They're able to put more professors into play because of their massive budgetary advantages, with the result that you have smaller classes, and if your research professor is not necessarily the next Laurence Olivier or Meryl Streep, at least in a smaller group there's more opportunity for personalized interaction. We're working to look at how the distribution of class sizes can be managed in a fashion that provides more opportunities for those personalized interactions. A simple example: Let's imagine we hire five professors and have 2,000 students. You could put them each in a course with 400 students and that experience would not necessarily be particularly personal for any student. But if you scaled up to 1,200 or 1,600 students for one teacher, the marginal loss in terms of personal interaction is minimal. With really great audiovisual support, the best large group communicator on the stage, excellent tutorial assistance, and online resources including the lecture webcast and [later] archived, you'd probably be just as far ahead or better off than having five 400-seat lectures.

Q: *I'm sure that idea scares the pants off your faculty.*

A: But if you do that, then the other colleagues are able to deal with much smaller classes. We've been looking at this with the unashamed view that the marginal loss of going from big to bigger is small, and the marginal gain of getting some of these small classes in play, with more personal interaction, is huge.

Q: *Do you view American universities as your main competitors?*

A: Certainly they're a big competitor for the best and brightest Canadian students. In Canada, spending on post-secondary education has lagged for 15 years. In the early 1980s, we were getting about $2,000 more per student in publicly assisted universities than they were in the U.S. Fast forward to now, it's a $5,000 per student gap in favour of American public universities. Everyone says, "Oh, here we go, another cash call, these are bottomless pits." Well, universities in general are 10 to 15 times less expensive per capita than health care, they're tremendous contributors to productivity, they're an investment in the next generation. Yet in Ontario, which has fully one-third of Canada's post-secondary students, spending on universities is 30 per cent or more below the national average.

Q: *Why then would any student who has the marks and the money to go to the Ivy League bother to come to U of T?*

A: One of our huge advantages is that we sit here in a great city with an enormously exciting and diverse population, where tolerance and a sense of inclusivity are very much part of the fabric of daily life. The other reality is that regardless of what you have to spend, Canadian higher education is a bargain. If you go to the Ivy Leagues, you're looking at spending a good $50,000 per year more, I'd guess. That said, I would make no bones about the fact that unless and until we increase the funding levels for Canadian universities, through whatever means—federal, provincial, tuition, whatever—we are going to continue to see some gap between American and Canadian institutions, and the quality of the student experience. And they will continue to lure wealthier Canadians and even some not so wealthy Canadians who make sacrifices to send their children.

Q: *You spent much of your medical career promoting the importance of measuring outcomes in health care. How do you do that at a university?*

A: The measurement of outcomes in higher education is still in the dark ages. There's still a very strong sense that universities are ultimately measured by the quality of their professoriate and their scholarly output, with relatively less attention paid to the quality of the student experience and the calibre of the learning that goes on. We profile creative and illustrious alumni, and we rub the latest prestigious report or ranking in our hair, but I worry that the actual serious measure of what we're about is still in its early stages. Very little is done even in terms of employer surveys to figure out whether graduates of school A are actually better than graduates from school B. Much of this is confounded with anecdotage: "The last employee I had from Harvard was great, and that employee from U of T was okay, but the one from University X was dreadful." Well that's not very rigorous. I don't think we've actually come to grips with what we've done for the student and for society.

Q: *Well, what is the principal business of a university?*

A: We are terrific at generating new ideas, and producing patents and disruptive technologies that change the world. I believe that invention is the mother of necessity and not the other way around. But the primary reason we exist is not just for our professors but overwhelmingly because we are here to educate the next generation to make a positive difference in a complex and troubled world.

Q: *Who should pay more to support all that: the federal government, the provinces, or both?*

A: If the federal government would get involved selectively—supporting graduate scholarships, enhancing Canada student loans, providing generous infrastructure renewal grants and proper overhead funding on research grants—it could play a transformative role. Currently, a federal research grant draws on average about 26 cents on the dollar of coverage of indirect costs, while the actual costs across any large research-intensive institution, depending on the amount of physical and bioscience, are probably closer to 50 or 60 cents on the dollar, and at least 40 cents. The bottom line is a chronic deficit in covering indirect costs. Furthermore, the larger the institution and the more federal funding it gets for research, the smaller the coverage, so U of T gets only about 20 cents on the dollar. It's a truly perverse sliding scale. If you want to have first-rate institutions compete internationally, doing it on a third-rate budget is not easy.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SIMON HAYTER

'The big advantage U.S. institutions have is the simple numbers of faculty they have on the ground'

Q: *You once told a reporter, "The most striking thing about governments is that even though they may be of substantially different ideological stripes, they behave in remarkably similar ways." Do you still believe that?*

A: Yes.

Q: *Why bother to vote, then?*

A: Democracy is like peer review. It's the worst imaginable system, except all the others. If you're not voting and you're not participating in the debate, then you're not a citizen and I happen to care a huge amount where the country goes. M

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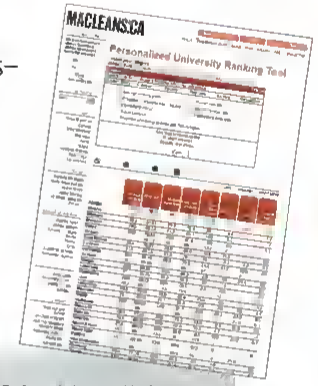

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BlackBerry Pearl

PHOTOGRAPH BY TORIN SIMMAN

THE UNIVERSITY RANKINGS ISSUE 2006

From campus food to life in residence; from the benefits of education to costs at each school; from where your MP went to university (many didn't) to the growing appeal of colleges and U.S. schools—it's our largest universities issue ever. Inside, we reveal the country's best universities as chosen by students, by the experts, and according to Maclean's 16th annual university rankings.

THE BEST INVESTMENT MONEY CAN BUY

A university degree spells a lifetime of better job prospects and higher income. It has also become the minimum qualification for many jobs. So just go already.

BY TONY BELLER • If you were to suffer the misfortune of spending time in Canada's prison system, and while there were brave enough to start asking your cellmates for their CVs, you'd notice an interesting trend: almost none of the wards of the Correctional Service of Canada has a university degree. In fact, at the time they began their incarceration, 82 per cent of federal inmates had an education of Grade 10 or less.

Admittedly, not going to university will not cause you to become a criminal. Nor will going to university prevent it. There's a difference between causation and correlation—something you can learn at university. But the chances of ending up in jail are considerably higher if someone has never been to university. And the chances of leading a life where crime is the subject of your late-night reading and TV watching, rather than your career, are considerably higher if you did go.

WHERE YOU GO TO UNIVERSITY MAY MAKE A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE. THAT YOU GO WILL MAKE AN ENORMOUS DIFFERENCE.

There is, in fact, a rather long list of bad things that are considerably more likely to happen, and good things that are much less likely to happen, if you do not have a university degree.

Enjoy free time? Don't go to university. Canadians with a high school diploma or less are much more likely to be unemployed than university graduates.

Trying to quit smoking? You're more likely to succeed if you have a college or university degree, according to a 2005 Statistics Canada study.

Drugs? Another StatsCan study found that having a lower level of education is "associated with elevated risks of dependence." You're far less likely to be a drug addict if you have a college or university degree. Ditto for alcohol.

You're also less likely to smoke, and less likely to become dependent on alcohol or drugs if you have an above average income. Which group of Canadians are most likely to have above-average incomes? University graduates.

Sex? University is good for that too, apparently. Women with higher levels of education are more likely to be able to reach orgasm, according to a recent study of more than 19,000 Australians.

More education may not be a cure-all for whatever ails you, but it sure doesn't hurt.

This issue of *Maclean's*, the University Rankings Issue, has been around for 16 years. Its purpose is to give all readers an insight into the workings of Canada's higher education system, and to help tens of thousands of Canadian high school graduates make an informed university choice.

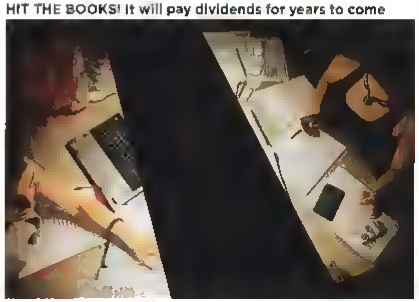
Where you go to university matters, in terms of the courses you will take, the program of study you will follow, the professors you will learn from, the campus you will be a part of, and the friends you will make. This issue is a first step in helping you make the right choice. But there is something that matters far more than where you go to university: *that* you go. Where you go to university may make a significant difference in your life and future success. That you go will make an enormous difference.

A few years ago, Princeton economist Alan Krueger wanted to find out whether your choice of university matters. A straight comparison of the post graduation incomes of students who went to highly selective American universities with those who went to less selective universities suggested that the answer was obvious: yes. The average student who entered a highly selective university such as Yale, Swarthmore or the University of Pennsylvania in 1976 earned $92,000 by 1995. The average student from a moderately selective university, such as Penn State, Denison or Tulane, earned $22,000 less.

But the figures may have merely been telling us that people who were better students in high school got admitted to "better" universities, and after four years at the better school, went on to land higher paying jobs. The raw numbers didn't explain to what degree that Ivy League education, rather than

FOUR MORE YEARS: Spending time at a place like this (Acadia, above) seems to make most people healthier, happier and wealthier

PHOTOGRAPH BY SIMON HAYTER



HIT THE BOOKS! It will pay dividends for years to come

PHOTOGRAPH BY SIMON HAYTER

PHOTOGRAPH BY DONALD WEBER (TOP)

a student's own qualities, contributed to her future success

To figure out whether going to a prestigious university makes a difference, Krueger compared students who went to highly selective universities with another group of students who had also been accepted at one of those selective universities—Harvard, say—but chose, for whatever reason, to go to a less selective and prestigious institution

Krueger's findings were a surprise He found no appreciable difference in post graduation incomes, 20 years on, between the two groups of students There are lots of good reasons for going to the best university you can get into But it is certainly no guarantee of anything Or as Krueger put it, "My advice to students Don't believe that the only school worth attending is one that would not admit you That you go is more important than where you go"

[illegible] you are likely to enjoy a considerably higher income than someone who entered the workforce right after high school, or even someone who went to college. In 2000, a full-time worker with only high school earned, on average, $36,000. Workers with a college certificate or diploma earned $41,000. But Canadians with a university certificate, diploma or degree earned $61,000. Over a lifetime, each university attendee will end up pulling in about $1 million extra

And it is never too late to go back to school StatsCan studies have found that mature workers who obtain a college or university degree see their wages rise much faster than their peers without a degree Adult post secondary education makes sense, when you consider that Canadian men with a university education were the only group of males who saw their incomes rise in the 1990s

The truth is that, for many jobs, university is now a kind of minimum standard, as high school graduation once was In 1981, there were more young women in Canada with only a high school diploma than there were university graduates By 2001, there were almost three times as many young women who held university degrees Canadians are now the most educated people on earth, according to the OECD 53 per cent of Canadians aged 25 to 34 have a college or university degree It is something the job market increasingly expects

WE HAVE A WINNER: That degree is worth about $1 million in extra lifetime income

WE ARE THE MOST EDUCATED PEOPLE IN THE WORLD: 53 PER CENT OF YOUNG CANADIANS HAVE A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY DEGREE.

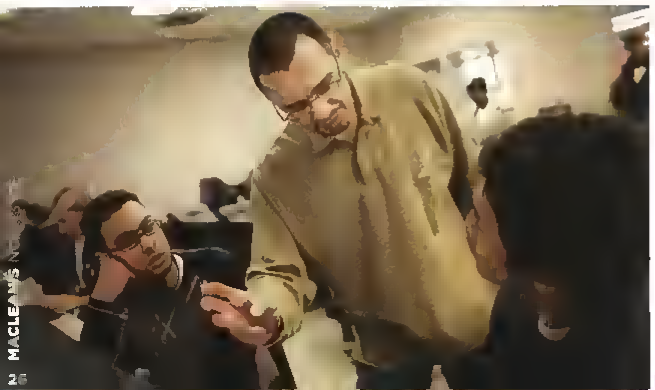
Of course, as a number of extremely rich and successful people have recently demonstrated, it is possible to be immensely successful, even without a university degree In *Forbes* magazine's most recent list of the 400 richest Americans, only one of the top five, and three of the top 10, had a university degree Bill Gates, Larry Ellison, Paul Allen, and Michael Dell all dropped out

It is similarly possible to learn to read without schooling, become a successful athlete without coaching, develop into a famous musician without formal music lessons, and put all of your money on the same number at a roulette wheel and win, spin after spin after spin All are possible, but all are very unlikely It all comes down to the laws of probability, and the difference between anecdote and statistically significant evidence—all of which you may learn about at university

Bill Gates took a risk by dropping out of university, and it paid off Dropping out, or not going in the first place, might succeed for you too University is not a guarantee of success, or a promise that you will never experience failure As the Krueger study shows, what matters above all is you But a university degree makes a lifetime of relative success in the job market more likely, and a lifetime of relative economic disappointment considerably less so It will be, at the bare minimum, a bit like an insurance policy—which may explain why Canadians, cautious types, have more post secondary education than anyone else

Canadian parents recognize that this is a race their children should enter: according to a recent StatsCan study, 93 per cent of parents with kids under the age of 18 hope that their children get some post secondary education, and the vast majority of those hope that their kids go to university

So make mom proud Go M



LISTEN, KID: In my day, university gave you a leg up Now it just gets you in the race

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DONALD WEBER

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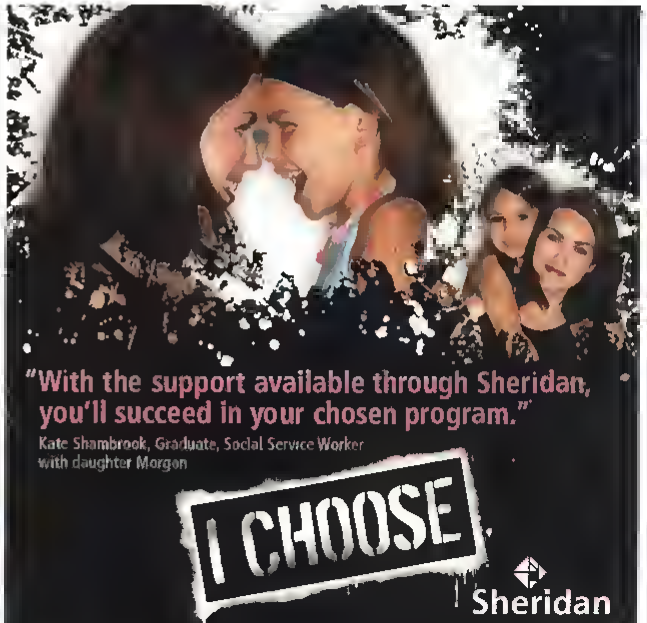


COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY?

TWO FOR ONE Tennica Hamilton (above) did a joint business degree at Guelph-Humber

PHOTOGRAPH BY TOBIN GRIMSHAW

With colleges and universities partnering, students are finding the answer can be: both

BY KIMBERLEY NOBLE • Are you the kind of student who does well enough—maybe even extremely well—in school, but likes a bit of practical application mixed with your theory? Instead of sitting in an amphitheatre with hundreds of first year students, would you prefer small classes, and to really get to know your professor, as well as all your classmates? Would you like to live at home, where you can spend your first few post-secondary years studying rather than swotting up on those ubiquitous first-year staples, Personal Nutrition and Washing Machine Operation?

If you answered "you bet" to any of the above, you might want to become one of the growing number of undergraduates who start their post-secondary lives by going not to university, but to college.

Canada's college sector is no longer what you, your parents and even some of your guidance counsellors think it is. Once purely vocational institutions, colleges have undergone a dramatic evolution in the past decade, and are poised for further—some even say transformational—change.

A few years back, it was only in Western Canada where you could find colleges offering accredited baccalaureate degrees, or universities willing to let you apply your college diploma toward a B.A. without a hassle. No more. "The times," says David Marshall, president of Mount Royal College in Calgary, one of the pioneers in the innovative undergraduate area, "are a changin'." Driven by a variety of factors—demand by students and professional associations for higher credentials, government agendas, the increased cost of education infrastructure and an overall shift toward a culture of lifelong learning—colleges across Canada are offering baccalaureates in all shapes and sizes, from what are known as associate and applied degrees, to honours B.A.'s and B.Sc.'s that prepare students for professional training and, in some cases, even graduate school.

In recent years, British Columbia's pioneering university-college system has evolved to the point where four out of the province's original five colleges are now accredited as universities. Malaspina University College in Nanaimo and University College of the Fraser Valley have both won membership in the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, while the University College of the Cariboo is now Thompson Rivers University and Okanagan University College has been absorbed by the University of British Columbia. The only exception, Kwantlen University College in Surrey, is seeking AUCC accreditation as a special-purpose, undergraduate-only university. In Alberta, institutions such as Grant MacEwan College in Edmonton and Mount Royal College in Calgary are teaming up with universities in Alberta and B.C. to offer four-year honours degrees on the college campus. Saskatchewan's regional college system delivers programs from both the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina at seven community colleges. Manitoba's University College of the North, formerly Keewatin Community College, is also in the process of expanding its students' access to university degree programs.

Meanwhile, in Ontario, the college system is almost unrecognizable from 10 years ago. Almost anywhere you find a community college and a university in the same city, they have teamed up to create concurrent degree-diploma programs in subjects such as early childhood education, journalism, nursing and business. For example, York University and Oakville, Ont.-based Sheridan College now offer a joint Bachelor of Design. In the Atlantic provinces, post-secondary institutions such as Cape Breton University are at the cutting edge when it comes to providing new programs and seamless transfer between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick's college and university systems.

That said, the question of whether you should go to college or university—or both—remains confusing. "Students graduating from high school don't understand the tremendous range of programs available to them," says David Thomas, vice-president, academic, at Malaspina University-College in Nanaimo, B.C. "The system for informing high school students of their choices has not kept up with the times." But students who take the time to understand the plethora of new options offered by college degrees or new college-university partnerships are already reaping substantial benefits. Says John Walsh, vice-provost of the University of Guelph-Humber, a hybrid college-university on Humber College's suburban Toronto campus: "These students are getting the most bang for their buck."

Many are also getting good jobs, along with the rewards normally associated with traditional undergraduate educations, such as research awards and prime spots in big-league graduate programs.

Megan Jamieson attended Georgian College in Barrie, Ont., graduating in 1997 with a diploma in environmental engineering. She became one of four Georgian graduates to take advantage of a brand-new agreement between the college and British Columbia's Royal Roads University, one of many such agreements that enable Georgian students to apply their diploma toward bachelor of science degrees at a number of universities.

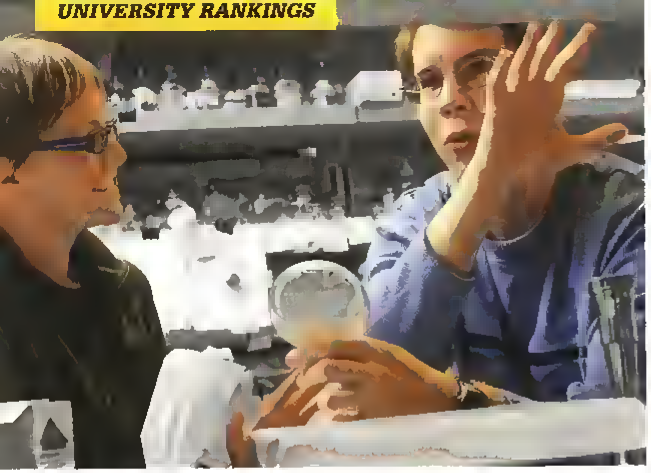
It worked well. "This was a bit backwards, choosing Georgian because it was practical, and then moving on to the theoretical," Jamieson says. The Royal Roads undergraduate program—which enables students with college diplomas to complete a university degree in 12 straight months—was "really intense. Some people burned out. But I found I loved university." She finished at the top of her graduating class, with a B.Sc. in environmental science, winning the Chancellor's Award for best student in her cohort. And because she was comfortable with both technical systems and concepts, she also landed a choice job with an international environmental organization. Says Jamieson: "This is a good balance for me, a good use of my whole education."

MANY UNIVERSITIES ARE WILLING TO LET YOU APPLY COLLEGE CREDITS TOWARD A DEGREE, AND MANY COLLEGES ARE OFFERING B.A.'S AND B.SC.'S OF THEIR OWN

Tennica Hamilton, who graduated in 2006 with both a diploma in business administration and an honours bachelor in business administration from Guelph-Humber, calls her post-secondary experience "the best of both worlds." She had applied to undergraduate programs at both York University and the University of Guelph but decided to attend the new hybrid in its first year of operation. "Getting both a university degree and a college diploma at the same time sounded even better," she says. She liked that she'd be in small classes. Plus, she could continue to live with her parents in Mississauga, Ont., while commuting to the Guelph-Humber campus on the outskirts of Toronto.

Her course combined an academic grounding in economics, law and business theory with hands-on practical work in accounting, organizational behaviour and project management. "It was amazing," Hamilton says. She is currently being fast-tracked through the management trainee program at Blinds To Go (Canada) Inc. Some members of her graduating class are in similar sales and management training programs, while others have gone on to professional schools such as law and accounting. She says most of her classmates dream of earning their M.B.A.'s. "But we're a practical group," she adds, "We want to get our employers to help pay for them."

Unlike some of his friends, Derek van Pel did not view Malaspina as the "safety school" that he'd attend only if he wasn't accepted at the University of British Columbia or University of Victoria. He applied and was accepted at all three schools, but chose to study biology at Malaspina because it was not only economical and convenient, but offered academic advantages. "I was born and raised



COLLEGE FIRST: Derek van Pel went from B.Sc. at Malaspina to Ph.D. in biology at UBC

in Nanaimo, and I liked it. Also, I could live at home. This may sound silly, but it meant I didn't have to hold down a part-time job and I could focus all my time and energy on my classes and I could do really well."

Malaspina, a university-college with 10,000 students, two-thirds of whom are enrolled in undergraduate degree programs, does not offer the depth and breadth of programs available at big research universities. "But what they do, they do very well," van Pel says. "The people are fantastic. There are small classes. If you care, the professors care, you get as much face time as you want." For that reason, van Pel decided to remain at Malaspina for all four years of his undergrad program, rather than switch to UBC or UVic for his third and fourth years.

He could thus take full advantage of the school's new Applied Environmental Research Lab, working on what, at other universities, would be graduate-level research projects on the environmental application of mass spectrometry—and presenting his findings at a regional conference—while still in third and fourth years. Van Pel and two of his classmates applied for, and got, federal research funds to work at the lab over the summer. When they graduated, they were awarded three of NSERC's $17,000 Canada Graduate Scholarships; one has chosen to study neurosciences at the University of Calgary, and another is doing graduate work in chemistry at UVic, while van Pel is now working on his Ph.D. in molecular biology at UBC—alongside former classmates who had transferred from Malaspina to UBC after second year. "So we have all ended up in the same place," he says. "But, for me, getting here was a lot more fun."

As is always the case with a new system, however, there are still a few bumps in the road. You can't always count on smooth sailing when moving between colleges and universities. British Columbia and the Atlantic provinces are by far the most advanced when it comes to inter-institutional agreements that allow seamless transfer; the experts say Alberta is next in line. Ontario is making progress. For example, the University of Ontario Institute of Technology in Oshawa, born of collaboration between Durham College and Peterborough's Trent University, is now a stand-alone university offering "bridge" programs between college diplomas and degrees in commerce and criminology. Cape Breton University in Nova Scotia, which spent years negotiating transfer agreements with East Coast community colleges, is now working on the next step: agreements under which graduates from a unique CBU honours degree program that integrates Aboriginal and Western scientific traditions will be admitted to Dalhousie University's medical school.

THERE ARE BUMPS IN THE ROAD. DAVE CRYDERMAN EARNED A B.MUS. AT CAPILANO—BUT WAS REJECTED BY FOUR GRAD SCHOOLS. THEY DID NOT RECOGNIZE HIS DEGREE.

However, some universities are less than enthusiastic about accepting college bachelor degrees as qualifications for graduate schools or professional training programs. Take the case of Dave Cryderman, who graduated in 2006 with a Bachelor of Music degree in jazz studies from B.C.'s Capilano College. Cryderman applied to, and was rejected by, teachers' colleges at four different Ontario universities, on the basis that Capilano—which previously awarded its degrees in partnership with B.C. Open University, now part of Thompson Rivers—is not recognized by the AUCC. This situation led to a hue and cry over post-secondary inconsistencies and has prompted educators to warn prospective college students to check to ensure that their choice of school and degree is properly accredited, and, if they intend to go to graduate school, will be recognized by universities. "Students have to do their homework," says CBU vice-president of development Keith Brown. "They have to realize they can't just do a college program and expect to go and do a degree anywhere."

And yet at the pace this sector is evolving, today's issues could be resolved by the time the class of 2010—or even, in the case of some college degrees, 2009—graduates. "The system is changing so quickly," says Thomas from Malaspina. "When B.C. set up the university colleges, we didn't think they would last forever. But nobody thought they'd be recognized as full-fledged universities in such a short time." What's more, the Cryderman case "has set off alarm bells across the country, and led to a national debate over the whole articulation and transfer issue," which he thinks could well result in a much-needed national degree or institutional accreditation system. Guelph-Humber's John Walsh thinks that as far as choices for today's undergraduate students go, the trends are all in their favour. "Co-operation and collaboration are the trend, both in Canada and internationally," he says. "The momentum may be building slowly, but the direction is inexorable." M

UNIVERSITIES AND CEOS

A look at where the chief executives of Canada's 200 largest companies did their undergraduate degrees shows that, by and large, the biggest and oldest schools claim the most graduates. Keep in mind, however, that today's crop of CEOs were in university a generation ago.

U OF T: 17 CEOs. **McGILL:** 15, **WESTERN:** 15, **ALBERTA:** 9, **CONCORDIA:** 7, **UBC:** 6, **LAVAL:** 6, **MANITOBA:** 6, **QUEEN'S:** 6, **DALHOUSIE:** 6, **WATERLOO:** 6, **OTTAWA:** 5, **CALGARY:** 4, **YORK:** 4, **RYERSON:** 4, **MONTREAL:** 4

Dominic D'Alessandro (left), CEO of Manulife Financial (Concordia)
Source: Financial Post Business, Nov. 5, 2005; additional research by Gloria Kim

PHOTOGRAPH BY RICK COLLINS

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2006-2007 STUDENT CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2006
Classes start at most universities
Deadlines for fall course changes

OCTOBER 2006
Deadline for New Brunswick student loans
Deadline for Newfoundland student loans

NOVEMBER 2006
Early conditional applications for universities begin
Classes end for Christmas at some universities

DECEMBER 2006
Exams at most universities
Winter holidays

JANUARY 2007
Classes start at some universities
Deadlines for winter course changes

FEBRUARY 2007
Universities begin to send out early conditional offers
Reading week at most universities
Scholarship deadline at many universities

MARCH 2007
Final application deadline at some universities, March 5-9, reading week at some universities

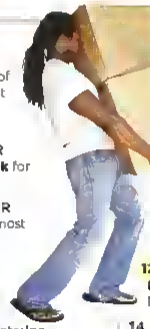
APRIL 2007
Classes end at some universities
Exams at most universities

MAY 2007
Exams at most universities
Spring semester begins at most schools
Final acceptance deadlines for many Ontario universities

JUNE 2007
Spring semester ends
Recommended deadline for student loans in most provinces

JULY 2007
Summer semester begins at most schools
Recommended deadline for Nunavut and Yukon student loans

AUGUST 2007
August to September, first instalment of fees due for most schools
Summer semester ends
Aug. 29-Sept. 10, orientation week for most schools



AUGUST TO SEPTEMBER
First instalment of fees due for most schools

29 AUGUST-10 SEPTEMBER
Orientation week for most schools

[illegible]-7 SEPTEMBER
Classes start at most universities

11 SEPTEMBER
Classes start at Brandon, Cape Breton (CBU), Guelph, Trent, Waterloo

[illegible] SEPTEMBER
Last day for course changes for most schools

LATE OCTOBER-NOVEMBER
Recommended deadline for early admissions at most universities

5 OCTOBER
Recommended deadline for New Brunswick student loans

[illegible] OCTOBER
Recommended deadline for Newfoundland student loans

[illegible] NOVEMBER
Classes end for Christmas at Lakehead and Winnipeg

[illegible] NOVEMBER
Classes end at Brock

[illegible] DECEMBER
Classes end at UBC, Guelph, Memorial, Mount Allison, UVic, UPEI, Queen's, St FX, Saint Mary's, St Thomas

[illegible] DECEMBER
Classes end at most universities. **Exams start** at most universities

11 DECEMBER
Classes end at Montreal. Exams start at Brandon, Calgary, U of T

12 DECEMBER
Exams start at Lethbridge, Montreal

14 DECEMBER
Exams end at UPEI

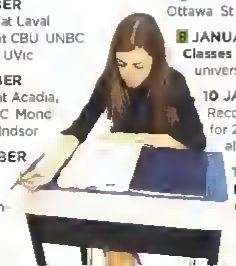
[illegible] DECEMBER
Classes end at Laval. Exams end at Guelph, Memorial, St Thomas, Winnipeg

16 DECEMBER
Exams end at Brock, Dalhousie, Lakehead, Mount Allison, Mount Saint Vincent, Ryerson, St FX, SFU

18 DECEMBER
Exams start at Laval
Exams end at CBU, UNBC, Saint Mary's, UVic

19 DECEMBER
Exams end at Acadia, Bishop's, UBC, Moncton, UNB, Windsor

20 DECEMBER
Exams end at Brandon, Calgary, Lethbridge, Manitoba, McMaster, Regina, Western York.



21 DECEMBER
Exams end at Alberta, Concordia, Nipissing, Queen's, U of T, Trent, Wilfrid Laurier

22 DECEMBER
Exams end at most universities. Classes end at Sherbrooke

JANUARY
Final fees due for most universities

[illegible] JANUARY
Classes start at Winnipeg

[illegible] JANUARY
Classes start at CBU, Carleton, Concordia, Dalhousie, Lakehead, McGill, McMaster, Mount Saint Vincent, UNBC, UPEI, Saint Mary's, Saskatchewan, UVic, Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier, York.

[illegible] JANUARY
Classes start at Brandon, Lethbridge, Manitoba, Mount Allison, Ottawa, St Thomas

[illegible] JANUARY
Classes start at most universities

10 JANUARY
Recommended deadline for 2007 applications for all Ontario universities

12-19 JANUARY
Deadlines for course changes at most schools

FEBRUARY-MAY
Most universities send out **early conditional offers**

FEBRUARY
Deadline for early response to offers at CBU, recommended admissions for non-Quebec students at McGill, Montréal non-Ont students at York, scholarships at McGill for non-Que students, early admissions at Manitoba, Ryerson, scholarships and admissions at UBC, Moncton, UNB, scholarships and early admissions at SFU, scholarships and final admissions at UVic

12-16 FEBRUARY
Reading week at Manitoba, USask, Winnipeg, York

19-21 FEBRUARY
Reading week at Memorial

[illegible]-23 FEBRUARY
Reading week at most universities

26 FEBRUARY-2 MARCH
Reading week at Bishop's, St FX, Western, Windsor

MARCH
Deadline for scholarship consideration on for Acadia, Alberta, Brandon, St Thomas, Winnipeg, early entrance awards at Lethbridge, St FX, early admissions at Lethbridge, Western, Winnipeg, final admissions for Bishop's, Concordia, Memorial, UNBC, St. Thomas, Sherbrooke, U of T, Waterloo, CÉGEP students for Laval, McGill, Montréal, bursaries at Sherbrooke, scholarships for CÉGEP students at McGill, CBU, scholarship consideration and admissions at Dalhousie, Mount Saint Vincent, Ryerson, special programs at Mount St Vincent, admissions at UNB

5-9 MARCH
Reading week at Laval, Moncton, Montreal, UNB, St. Thomas, Sherbrooke

APRIL
Deadline for recommended admissions at Brandon, Calgary, bursaries for Wilfrid Laurier, Windsor, scholarships at Lakehead, Windsor, final admissions for Guelph, SFU

[illegible]-[illegible] APRIL
Classes end at most universities
Exams start at Winnipeg

9-14 APRIL
Classes end at Acadia, Brock, USask, Concordia, Manitoba, McGill, Ottawa, St FX, UBC, UNB, Western, Alberta, Calgary, Moncton, Montreal, Regina, Ryerson, U of T, Windsor. **Exams start** at Carleton, Dalhousie, Guelph, Memorial, Mount Allison, Saint Mary's, Trent, Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier

10 APRIL
Exams start at most universities

11 APRIL
Exams start at Acadia, Bishop's, Brandon, UPEI, York

12 APRIL
Exams start at Brock, Queen's, St Thomas

13 APRIL
Exams start at Concordia, Manitoba, McGill

14 APRIL
Exams end at UNB, Ottawa, Sherbrooke, Western, Windsor

[illegible] APRIL
Classes end at Lethbridge. **Exams start** at UBC, Calgary, Moncton, Montreal, Regina, Ryerson, St FX

17 APRIL
Exams start at Alberta

18 APRIL
Exams end at Memorial

19 APRIL
Exams start at Lethbridge **and end** at Mount Allison and Winnipeg

20 APRIL
Classes end at Laval. **Exams end** at CBU, Guelph, Mount Saint Vincent

21 APRIL
Exams end at Lakehead, UNBC, St Thomas, SFU, Waterloo

23 APRIL
Exams start at Laval, U of T and end at Dalhousie

24 APRIL
Exams end at Acadia, UPEI, Windsor

25 APRIL
Exams end at Brandon, Brock, Trent

26 APRIL
Exams end at Calgary, Moncton, UNB, St FX, UVic

[illegible]-[illegible] APRIL
Classes end at Sherbrooke. Exams end at Bishop's, Laval, Lethbridge, McMaster, Montreal, Sherbrooke, Wilfrid Laurier

28 APRIL
Exams end at Alberta, Carleton, Nipissing, Queen's, Regina, Saint Mary's

29 APRIL
Exams end at Concordia, Ryerson

30 APRIL
Exams end at most universities

MAY
Deadline for scholarship consideration for Bishop's, Nipissing, admissions at Nipissing, non-Que students at Laval, non-Ont students at Wilfrid Laurier, early response at Queen's, final admissions and guaranteed scholarships at Saskatchewan, final admissions at Trent

11 MAY
Exams end at U of T

[illegible] MAY
Final response date to offers for many Ontario universities

MAY-JUNE
Spring convocation

MAY TO AUGUST
Spring/summer semester

31 MAY
Recommended deadline for Alberta student loans

JUNE
Deadline for scholarships at Lethbridge, final admissions at Carleton, Lethbridge, Moncton, Western, response from McGill, CÉGEP students at Laval, Guelph, Laurentian, Wilfrid Laurier, Bishop's, Waterloo, admissions at Regina

[illegible] JUNE
Recommended deadline for Ont., Que., B.C., N.S., Sask., Man. student loans

[illegible] JULY
Recommended deadline for Nunavut and Yukon student loans

21 JULY
Recommended deadline for P.E.I. student loans

Gloria Kim

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What Accounting Should Be

Third profile in a series of six

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Suzanne Monfet, CMA, Manager, Engine Business Finance, Pratt & Whitney Canada, Longueuil, Quebec

"Being a CMA is a great complement to an engineering and manufacturing enterprise – we have a different way of looking at things and are good at integrating diverse elements. I started at Pratt & Whitney Canada Corp (P&WC) in '94 and began rotating through various organizations across the company. As a world leader in small aviation engines, P&WC has created a very rich experience. Today I'm the manager of the engine business finance group building business case models with long time horizons for new engine programs. But I've also led IT projects and process improvements, such as a new budget system for the engineering organization along the way. We have to be very productive and cost-efficient in our quality culture. My role involves direct meetings with the senior management team to address a wide scope of subjects, including pricing strategy, market and value cost drivers. We really try to think outside the box. Before we commit to investing millions of dollars in a new engine, we want to be sure we've made a well-considered and well rounded decision. We don't follow, we lead. CMAs are very "hands-on" and very close to decision-making. Our skills are truly valued. It's great to know that as CMAs, we really make a difference."

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I want to study in America

More Canadians than ever are looking south when choosing a school

BY JULIA MCKINNELL • "What's better?" asks James O'Connor, a father of two teenage daughters. "An education in Canada or at one of these U.S. places?"

A generation ago, when he was in high school, O'Connor never gave a second thought to the States. But now, with his eldest daughter in Grade 11 at a private school in Toronto, he's "become interested," and he's started to give serious thought to the pros and cons of a Canadian versus American education—particularly an Ivy League education.

The Ivies are the elite of the U.S. elite: Harvard, Yale, Cornell, Brown, Dartmouth, Columbia, University of Pennsylvania, and Princeton. Earlier this fall, in a bid to recruit top Canadian students, admissions representatives from the Ivy League set up tables in the ballroom of the Intercontinental Hotel on Front Street in Toronto. A joint presentation was given followed by a Q and A session. The sales pitch was repeated coast to coast, beginning in Vancouver and concluding in Montreal.

"Everybody had to sign in and say how old your kid was," says O'Connor, "and what grade they were in high school. There were kids in Grade 9 already gearing up with their parents." The Q and A session was a "swarm," he says, and "true to stereotype, probably about half the audience was Chinese. Probably a quarter was South Asian, Indian."

The number of Canadians going to school in the U.S. is still small, but the numbers are growing. Last year, 28,140 Canadians studied at U.S. colleges, up from 23,544 at the start of the century. At Harvard College, there are 150 Canadians enrolled—that's 2.3 per cent of the undergraduate student body. Canadians are the largest group of foreigners at Harvard.

And there are many more eager Canadians in the pipeline: last year, more than 9,000 Canadians wrote the scholastic aptitude test, or SAT. The SATs are the standardized tests administered by the College Board and used by most U.S. colleges to help them decide who is qualified for admission—and who is not.

Katherine Cape, 18, from West Vancouver, is a freshman this year at Princeton, where her brother David, 21, is in his third year. Both love it. When asked what the drawbacks are, travel distance home is the only issue either one seems to mind.

COMPLETING AN APPLICATION TO A U.S. UNIVERSITY CAN BE A FULL-TIME JOB: THEY WANT GRADES, SAT TESTS, REFERENCES AND MULTIPLE ESSAYS

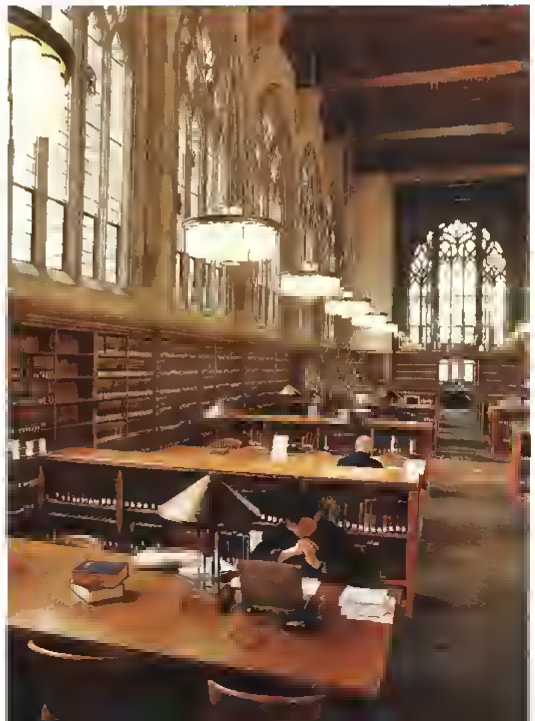
Katherine describes the process of applying to Princeton as intensive. "Here's a list of what I had to do," she writes in an email. "Take my SATs and three SAT II's. Ask for three letters of recommendation. Write five essays of various lengths, send my entire high school transcript from Grade 10 onwards. I spent much of the first two months of my Grade 12 stressing about my application."

Her brother David describes the application process as "holistic" in the sense that "great marks are not enough to guarantee admission," he says, "but they're definitely a requirement. I think I finished [high school] with a 96 to 97 per cent average."

In the States, eager parents, fretting over their childrens' educational fate, send kids as young as nine years old to college admission prep camps. The children practise essay writing and SAT-taking.

However, for Canadians not exposed to this level of prepping, there's good news from some American universities. "We understand that Canadian students do not grow up in a 'testing culture' as do American students," says Margit Dahl, director of admissions at Yale. "Many Canadians write the SATs for the first time in their senior year," said Dahl when asked whether leniency was given to promising Canadians who apply with relatively lower SAT scores. "An admissions officer presenting Canadian students to the admissions committee might comment on that." Likewise at Harvard. "There is no cut off score," said Andrea Balian in the admissions office. "Each application is looked at regardless of the SAT score."

But even if your kid is a genius who is pulling in a 97 per cent average while captaining the swim team, how can you possibly afford an elite U.S. education? The cost of tuition, room and board at an Ivy is approximately $45,000 U.S. per year. If you're smart enough to be accepted, but really can't afford it, you're in luck.



NOT CHEAP: Schools such as Yale have high tuition, but generous aid

NDX PHOTOS

HARVARD: More then two per cent of students are Canadian

Places like Harvard, Princeton and Yale are generous with scholarships, loans and bursaries to any student who can demonstrate financial need. Harvard boasts that 70 per cent of its first-year students receive some form of financial aid. And new this year at Harvard is a policy to provide 100 per cent financing to any student whose family's income is U.S. $60,000 a year or under.

At Princeton, the university insists that no student admitted will be turned away because he or she cannot afford it. "The Princeton financial aid application is for everybody," says Seka Plemenitas of the university's financial aid office. "Yes, absolutely, yes, yes. We cover the need of the student 100 per cent."

U.S. Ivy Leagues offer no merit scholarships. In other words, money is not awarded for high marks as it sometimes is in Canada. Money is instead given to students who need it. "It's a surprisingly socialist, egalitarian approach," says O'Connor. "So they set the official sticker price high, but then they turn around and subsidize based on people's needs."

An application for financial aid at Princeton, for instance, requires parents to submit tax information, the parents' assets (their savings, investments, real estate, including family home and retirement funds), as well as the students' assets, and a summary of the family's annual expenses.

One thing the Ivies don't offer are athletic scholarships. But according to Brian Smith, president and CEO of University Prospects, a sports scholarship recruiting company based in Richmond Hill, Ont., there are "thousands of universities in the States" eager to accept Canadian student athletes.

Smith, 31, started his company in 2000. "I saw a big demand for it," he says, "it" being Canadian athletes looking for U.S. scholarship money. In the company's first year, Smith sent 25 Canadians to the U.S. Over the last six years, he's exported 800 Canadian athletes to U.S. colleges. Full scholarships are available for everything from football to bowling.

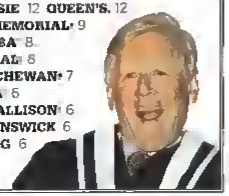
Should Canada worry about brain drain? Not necessarily. "There is no brain drain if the student returns to Canada," says Hannah Thompson, senior program manager at the International Institute of Education in New York. And anecdotal evidence suggests a lot of Canadians do return.

"Yeah," says O'Connor. "But I know a guy who did his undergrad and M.B.A. at Harvard, took a job on Wall Street, married an American. He never came back." M

CANADIAN RHODES SCHOLARS 1988-2006

The Rhodes Trust has been awarding scholarships since the death of Cecil Rhodes in 1902. Ninety are awarded every year in the Commonwealth, the U.S. and Germany, including 11 for Canada. The award, to spend two years at Oxford, is generally seen as the most prestigious honour a graduating student can receive: past winners include Bill Clinton and Bob Rae. Here are the universities that have produced the most Rhodes Scholars since 1988:

McGILL 21 **U OF T** 19
DALHOUSIE 12 **QUEEN'S** 12
UBC 9 **MEMORIAL** 9
MANITOBA 8
MONTRÉAL 8
SASKATCHEWAN 7
ALBERTA 6
MOUNT ALLISON 6
NEW BRUNSWICK 6
WINNIPEG 6



Bob Rae (right)

WHAT YOUR PROFS REALLY THINK

Off the record, they say many of their students are unprepared to learn

BY KATE FILLION • First, the bad news. Your writing, basic computational skills, and critical thinking abilities are—there's no way to sugar-coat this—abysmal. Math profs grumble about students who pull out a calculator to get the answer to 3 x 7. English profs complain about students who can't compose an outline for a four page paper.

Some say the problem is the high school curriculum, with its emphasis on creativity rather than knowledge. Others, the ones who know Latin, anyway, blame modern society *in toto*. "Video games, TV, the Internet, cell phones—any kid who's spending several hours a day on those might have been using that time a generation ago to read. They may actually be dumber as a result," muses one philosophy professor at the University of Toronto.

"Evolution doesn't work that quickly," contends a science prof at the same institution (for reasons that will become obvious if they are not already, almost all the professors interviewed for this article insisted on anonymity). "The problem is that it's far too easy to get into university today. We're seeing students who never would've been admitted 20 or 30 years ago, and we're spending a huge amount of time providing remedial education to them at the expense of the more talented ones."

More Canadians attend university than ever before. In 2005, the number of full-time students climbed beyond 806,000—an increase of nearly 150,000 in just four years. "Many of them have little interest in learning," says a social sciences professor at the University of Winnipeg. "They're here because their parents believe a degree is a prerequisite for a good job." Accommodating all these bodies requires dumbing down course content, according to many professors. Some even admit to helping students write papers because, as the Winnipeg prof puts it, "someone has to show them how to write a sentence, and if I didn't, they could not complete the work. Unfortunately, we're not allowed to fail the entire class."

CORBIS

THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST? According to some profs, they're spending too much of their time providing 'remedial education'

But despite the chorus of complaints, it's impossible to prove whether today's students are, in fact, less well-prepared than their parents were. There's no Canadian equivalent to the SAT, nor is a longitudinal survey of scores on proficiency tests possible, because "we simply haven't had standardized testing of post-secondary students across the country or even across provinces," says Paul Cappon, president of the Canadian Council on Learning. However, he points out that annual testing of 13- and 16-year-olds indicates "very stable trends, not much change at all over the past 10 or 15 years" in terms of achievement in reading, writing, math and science. And in recent international tests, Canadian high school students rank significantly above average.

Nevertheless, professors maintain that the current crop of students has a markedly more utilitarian attitude toward education. "I am no longer a teacher. I have become a service provider, and education is a consumer purchase," reports one professor at Ryerson University. "I am expected to be available in person and online when students need me, and they have little interest in or understanding of, let alone respect for, my scholarly research obligations, for example."

This sense of entitlement has little to do with learning and everything to do with outcomes. "If they don't get an A, they ask how they 'lost' marks, as though an A is an inalienable right, not something you earn by exceeding expectations," says one member of the health sciences faculty at Queen's University.

Even more annoying, at least from the profs' perspective, many students feel quite free to blame the teacher when they bomb a course. This unwillingness to take personal responsibility is particularly galling because profs are, by and large, convinced the problem has little to do with them. "We don't get any training in teaching or organizational skills," concedes one U of T humanities professor. "But after a student gets a bad mark and denounces my teaching ability, he'll often go on to say that really, he would've done very well indeed if only I'd had the decency to post my lecture notes on the Internet. Well, the only reason a student wants your notes is so he can skip class more often."

Weeping and harassment via email are, it appears, now standard tactics when seeking better marks. One math prof reported that a student had a full-blown tantrum and threw herself on the floor of his office when he refused to raise her grade. An English prof spoke wearily of "constant email harassment from kids who want to go to law school, and view their low marks as a problem you need to solve for them." A criminology prof noted that, not infrequently, such emails have return addresses like sexygirl@hotmail.com or drunkjock@sympatico.ca, and open with a formal salutation along the lines of "Hiya."

"Since the time of Plato, professors have probably bitched about their students," says Dr. Ed Barbeau, a math professor who recently retired from the University of Toronto. "The problem I see today, that I believe is new, is that if you really probe, you realize many of them don't have a firm idea of anything. There's no bedrock of knowledge." And yet more than ever before, students are worried about their grades, not least because so many of them are hell-bent on grad school.

Now for the good news, at least for students. Universities are desperate to attract and retain more funding sources (read: you), which creates pressure on professors to inflate grades. All professors, even the self-proclaimed tough markers, said that it is now surprisingly easy to get A's. For starters, go to class—yes, they do notice when you're not there—and make a point of debating, disagreeing and otherwise demonstrating that you can think critically. Several profs confided that participation will result in more generous and lenient marking, and that they are sticklers only with students they think are lazy or rude. Feign interest, if necessary: one professor pointed out that many students appear to believe they are watching TV instead of a lecture, and to be under the misimpression that the lecturer cannot see them slumped over the desk, sighing and rolling their eyes. A modicum of professionalism—meeting deadlines, refraining from the urge to blurt out personal information or turn up to class dressed like a pole dancer—is always appreciated. Oh, and one last thing: ask for help before you fail the exam or essay. You might be surprised what your prof has to teach you. M

WHERE YOUR MPS WENT TO UNIVERSITY

Most members of Parliament attended university, and some, such as Michael Ignatieff, have multiple degrees. Seventeen MPs have college or trade school—and a surprising 36 MPs did not attend university at all. Here's our tally of which schools produced the most MPs in the current Parliament:

TORONTO: 32 **MONTRÉAL** 22, **YORK** 13, **SASKATCHEWAN** 12, **ALBERTA** 11, **LAVAL** 11, **McGILL** 11, **OTTAWA** 11, **UQUAM** 11, **WESTERN.** 11, **DALHOUSIE** 10, **QUEEN'S** 10, **UBC:** 9, **CALGARY:** 9, **NEW BRUNSWICK.** 9, **MANITOBA:** 8, **SHERBROOKE** 8, **WINDSOR** 8, **CARLETON** 7, **MEMORIAL:** 7

Ruby Dhalla (right) attended the University of Winnipeg

PHOTOGRAPH BY S. MONHAYTER

DINING HAUL At many universities, such as Brock (left), the menu is built around fast food, Guelph (right) offers healthy alternatives

Feeding the student body

Some schools serve up fine dining. And others? Well, not so much.

BY CAMERON AINSWORTH-VINCZE • Shortly before the University of Manitoba's Pembina Hall opened for dinner one evening last spring, Man Soprovich led a group of students in a march to the steps of the U of M's administration building. Wearing T-shirts emblazoned with the letters "F U" (Food service Unfulfilled) and carrying empty dining hall trays, they wanted to deliver a message: they were sick and tired of the food. "Students tell me, 'Hey Man, I got food poisoning the other day. I vomited a dozen times this year,'" the third-year political science student shouted into a microphone to an audience of about 50. "For $400 a month, we deserve more."

In the days following, things appeared to change for the better. "At the next couple of dinners they brought out a really nice spread with a buffet and they had this chicken with a splendid sauce so wonderfully prepared," he recounts. "That lasted about a week."

To underscore the seriousness of his cause, Soprovich conducted a survey asking students to rate the food, and published the findings in an 11-page manifesto entitled *The Aramark Manifesto*, named after the university's exclusive food provider. Of the 45 people who took part in the survey, 20 said they had experienced symptoms such as nausea, lethargy, diarrhea and vomiting. To make his case with senior university administrators, Soprovich invited them to lunch—in the dining hall. They all declined. "Sorry, I have another engagement," wrote the provost and vice-president academic, Robert Kerr. "However, I hear the food is pretty good and have done the residence visit before so do not really need to test it. Enjoy your lunch."

Griping about the quality of university food is nothing new, and it's hardly unique to the University of Manitoba. The annual *Maclean's Guide to Canadian Universities* has been conducting a "campus confidential" survey for the past 10 years—asking student newspapers, clubs and union representatives to describe what's hot and what's not at their respective universities—and complaints about cafeteria food are as commonplace as the mystery meat served in many a dining hall on Sunday nights.

At Brock University's DeCew dining hall in St. Catharines, Ont., the menu is worthy of a place of honour in the fast-food hall of shame. The lunch choices one day in September: hamburgers, cheeseburgers, grilled cheese sandwiches ("Texas toast") and hot dogs, all served with French fries. There are also bean and beef burritos, cheese ravioli, brown beans and baked Mexican rice that all wither under infrared heating lamps and taste chalky and overcooked. There's pizza. And the day's special: chicken tinga with vegetables. It resembles a papier mâché project and tastes similar to one. "It's not horrendous but definitely not amazing," says Julia Falcone, a first-year child and youth studies student who is lactose intolerant and often feels bloated at the end of the day. "Some days I just eat salad and rice," she adds with a fleeting smile. For some students who have only been eating the food for a couple of weeks, the menu is already becoming a point of frustration. "It doesn't taste good, it's so full of carbs and they never switch it," says Meagan Sanchez, a first-year psychology student. A quick look at the menu on the university's website confirms Sanchez's assertion: Hamburgers, hot dogs and pizza are daily staples, served for weeks at a time. Healthier options are also limited. The salad bar is tiny and filled with tomatoes that aren't yet ripe, snow peas that are turning brown, and a pasta salad swimming in mayonnaise. There are also a few frightening pieces of fruit: a clutch of bananas nearing the end of their lifespan and apples covered by a mysterious white coating.

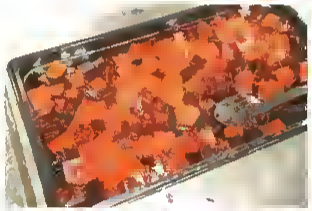
"It's not in keeping with current thinking in terms of nutrition," says Rosie Schwartz, a registered dietitian and author of *The Enlightened Eater*. "Nowhere near it." A student needs a balanced diet that includes protein, vegetables, whole grains and low fat dairy products because "food is supposed to provide fuel and give you energy to think and be active," she says. "When you've had a huge portion of fries and a cheeseburger, you're not going to the gym an hour later. You're going to feel too lethargic to do it."

Brock University is by no means the only institution that is failing to serve up satisfactory meals. Student testimony from the campus confidential surveys indicates that cafeteria food at the University of New

PHOTOGRAPHS BY TOBIN GRIMSHAW

Brunswick, Acadia University and Université Laval lacks variety, the food at the University of Winnipeg and Ottawa is in desperate need of spicing up, York University students want healthier alternatives, the food at the University of Lethbridge is uninspired, University of Alberta and St. Thomas University students have few vegetarian options; cafeterias at Queen's and Laurentian University lack selection, and Nipissing University's food is considered expensive and simply unappealing. At some schools, like Ryerson University, the problem isn't so much the actual food but the schedule and availability of it. The main food service location in Jorgenson Hall closes at 6:30 p.m. between Monday and Thursday, and during dinner several of the main counters are empty or closed for the day. "It would be nice to eat when you want instead of sometimes rushing," says Lindsay Jennings, a first-year fashion and design student. No wonder an army of hot dog vendors surrounds the campus.

Yet some universities are striving to offer variety while promoting healthy eating habits. The University of Victoria opened a 197-seat vegetarian/vegan restaurant in 2004 called Village Greens after demand for such meals rose dramatically. Heather Seymour, the university's food service coordinator, says it has enabled her to offer students healthier food products. "Instead of cheddar process, I can use natural cheddar. Instead of that crappy shredded lettuce, I can use lettuce leaf filets."



CULINARY TIME WARP. Brock's food is 'not horrendous, but it's definitely not amazing'

The University of Guelph has also been singled out as one of the leading institutions in the country when it comes to student satisfaction with food. At the Creelman Market Place at the north end of the campus, a cafeteria inspired by the Marche restaurants, the food is as pleasing as the internal layout of the facility. One evening earlier this year, students could chose from an eclectic list of items, including BBQ pork ribs, roast potatoes, baked salmon, beef bourgugnon, roast lamb, a 6 oz. steak, a quarter chicken and two types of stir fries. The salad bar offered everything from yellow peppers, cucumbers, celery and radishes to freshly made Caesar salad and couscous. The fruit stand included watermelon, honeydew, grapes, pineapple and sliced grapefruit, not one item of which was remotely close to expiring. "Our goal is to provide what mom and dad would offer," says Paul Clark, head of food operations at Guelph University, who estimates that 40 per cent of the food served is made on site. "The food is made in-house so that we don't get it frozen in a box and just drop it in a deep fryer," adds David Boeckner, the university's executive director of hospitality services. Although some students consider the meals pricey, many are thankful for the healthy options. "I love the food," says Kalie Woodcock, a first-year arts student. "If it's going to be healthier for me, I'll pay for it."

Changes are occurring at other institutions as well. McMaster University recently opened Bridges Cafe, a cafeteria that caters to vegetarian, vegan and religious diets. At St. Francis Xavier University, a PowerPoint presentation is used at the start of the academic year to educate students about their meal plan, nutritional signs are posted near serving counters to encourage healthy eating habits, and surveys and meetings with students are conducted routinely to elicit feedback. "It's about listening to what students want," says Kuli Malhotra, manager of conferences and food services at St. FX. "That is the key objective." This fall, the University of Toronto became the first university in the country to commit to serving some locally produced items in its cafeterias after teaming up with Local Flavour Plus, a non-profit group that promotes responsible food production in Ontario. Under the agreement, the university has started purchasing some of its milk, fruit, vegetables and other products from farmers and food processors that use few or no pesticides and antibiotics.

CORNUCOPIA. At Guelph, 'we don't get it frozen in a box and just drop it in a deep fryer'

'WHEN YOU'VE HAD A HUGE PORTION OF FRIES AND A CHEESEBURGER, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO THE GYM AN HOUR LATER'

On some campuses, students have grown so tired of waiting for their administrations to act that they have initiated their own food projects. At Concordia University, a group of students founded the People's Potato, a vegan soup kitchen that serves about 300 students each day of the academic year. The Midnight Kitchen project at McGill University, also a vegan soup kitchen, serves 100 to 150 dishes a day. And the food is not only healthy, it's cheap. Students can make a donation or eat for free. "People have told me they came to the university because of the Potato," says Benoit Desgreniers, one of the Potato's full-time staff members.

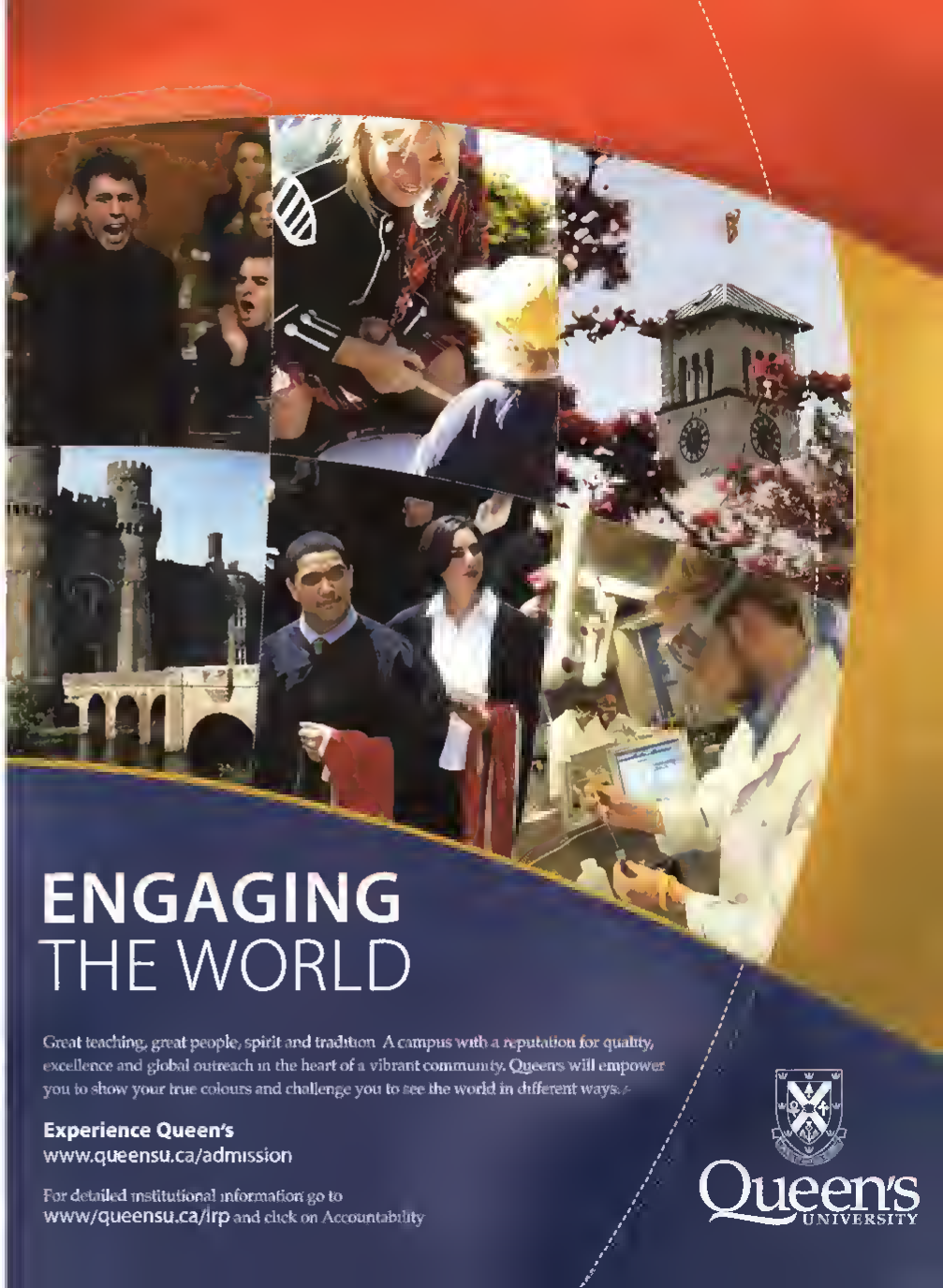
Perhaps disgruntled students at other universities will take note and begin developing their own food initiative programs. Hopefully their cafeteria food hasn't made them too lethargic to spring into action. M

BEER ON CAMPUS

Whether it's to argue Hegel or watch hockey, the campus pub has always been a centre of student life at university. Here are the results of our survey of pitchers and pints at campus bars across Canada

MOST POPULAR BEERS: Alexander Keith's and Molson Canadian
LEAST EXPENSIVE PITCHER: $6.50 (50 oz.) from Mount Allison's Tantramarsh Pub
MOST EXPENSIVE PITCHER: $15 (60 oz.) from Université de Montréal's La Brunante
MOST BEER SOLD: 1,500 pitchers a week at Université Laval's Le Pub

PHOTOGRAPHS BY TOBIN CRIMSHAW



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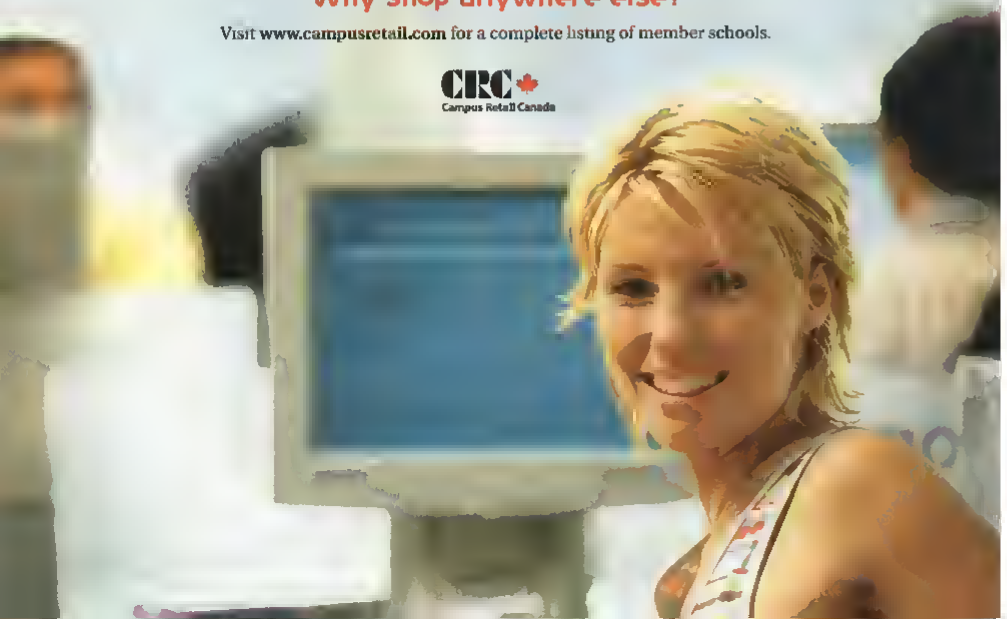


ROOM SERVICE Thanks to New Res (above), a converted luxury hotel, McGill can now guarantee a room to every first-year student

IT'S ALMOST LIKE HOME

To attract students, schools are promising choice accomodation

MARTIN PATRIQUIN • The title character of Tom Wolfe's *I Am Charlotte Simmons* is a country bumpkin genius, who at the novel's beginning is utterly romantic about her impending first year at university. As in most literary endeavours describing university life, Charlotte encounters the usual gang of sexually charged boozies, rich kids, nerds and outcasts. They don't just study on an idyllic, ivy-covered campus—they live there. The students of the archetypal Dupont University meet, mingle and sleep (apart, and not) in a university dormitory.

What's true about Wolfe's tale? Residence life can sometimes be a rowdy, booze-infused, unpredictable learning experience. What's not true? In Canada at least, most university students don't live on campus. There are roughly 102,000 residence spaces at Canadian universities—enough beds for barely one in 10 undergraduates.

On most Canadian campuses, there are far more commuters than residents: at the University of British Columbia, 79 per cent of students live off campus, most with their parents, according to the Canadian Undergraduate Survey Consortium. At the University of Alberta, 91 per cent of students live off campus. Eight in 10 University of Toronto students are commuters. At York, 85 per cent commute: the school has 9,000 parking spots. For every Mount Allison, where almost all incoming students are in residence, there is a Concordia: 30,000 students, 147 residence spaces.

It's a situation that Canadian universities are trying to change. The availability of residence spaces is seen as a carrot that can lure the most desirable students. A growing number of universities now guarantee an on-campus bed for at least the first year of university. The list includes Acadia, Bishop's, Brandon, Guelph, Lakehead, Mount Allison, Ottawa, Queen's, St. Francis Xavier, Toronto, Trent, Victoria, Western, Wilfrid Laurier and Windsor. Others—such as York, UBC, Calgary, Laurentian and McMaster—offer first-year housing to scholarship students, or students with outstanding high school grades.

Why live in residence? To reassure jittery parents, officials are pushing safety, security and academically positive atmospheres. Residences, parents and students are told, more or less guarantee "a safe and comfortable living environment" (Mount Allison) and a "good balance between academics and social activity" (UBC) that will "ensure the safety of all students" (Victoria).

"The transition to university is a big change," said Susan Grindrod, who is in charge of housing at University of Western Ontario. "A first-year student has a lot on his mind. It looks after your basic needs, sleeping and eating. Through our research, we know that the more you are connected to the university, the better you will do."

Western is a good example of the residence trend. Nearly 80 per cent of first-year students are in res, up from fewer than 70 per cent four years ago. Western guarantees a bed, a roof and a floor monitor to every first-year student—meaning the university has some 3,300 first-year students under its wing. These residences, Western promises, promote an "atmosphere conducive to sleep and study," where students "are encouraged to take advantage of the academic component" of university life.

Reality often trumps perception, though. Take Kristy Kupper, a first-year student at Ottawa's Carleton University. Kupper's a bit of an anti-Charlotte Simmons. Like Wolfe's protagonist, she is from a small town (Dryden, Ont.), and she is an English major. That is where the similarity ends. Kupper, 18, drinks, smokes, sometimes skips class, often ignores homework and has a boyfriend. Residence, she says, accommodates all her habits.

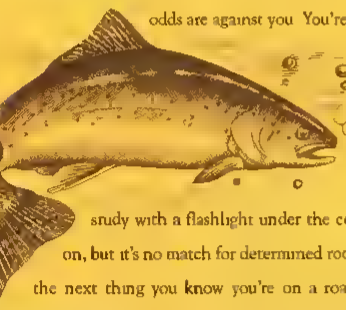
She lives in Prescott House, Carleton's newest residence, along with 399 other students, most of whom are also first-years. The bottle blond shares her room with Laura Lefebvre, a less gregarious film studies major

CLOSE QUARTERS First-years getting to know their neighbours at Carleton (below)

PHOTOGRAPHS BY RACHEL GRANOFSKY (TOP); TOBIN GRIMSHAW (BOTTOM)

YOU CAN'T COUNT ON STRAIGHT A'S.

It doesn't matter if you're a genius. It doesn't matter if you aced every subject in high school. It's post-secondary time now and you simply can't count on straight A's. It's not that you're not capable of getting perfect marks. It's just that the minute you walk through those big doors and enter the halls of higher learning, the elements start conspiring against you. From the first class of the first year you're surrounded by distractions of every size and shape. Everywhere you look there are persons, places and things begging you to put down that book. "Just for a minute" they purr seductively as they pull you into their clutches. Five hours later you emerge from the round of frisbee-golf or the instant messaging marathon racked with guilt and resolving to never again give in to temptation. But the odds are against you. You're a hungry trout swimming through a pond and everywhere you turn there are delicious shiny lures. And even if you have willpower to spare, chances are your roommates don't. You can study with a flashlight under the covers behind a closed door with your headphones on, but it's no match for determined roommates. They'll find you, they'll distract you, and the next thing you know you're on a road trip miles away from lectures, libraries and laboratories. In your quest for higher learning know this as truth. You can't always count on straight A's, but you can always count on Corolla.



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COROLLA

ONE THING YOU CAN COUNT ON

from New York. The two of them, in turn, share a small common area and a bathroom with another pair of girls. If anything rings true about Carleton's residence mantra "co-operation, consideration, compromise," it is over the bathroom: these four young women have gone a full month of school without fighting over it. Kupper and Lefebvre, meanwhile, have themselves learned to compromise. Lefebvre studies, Kupper doesn't, and Kupper's boyfriend was driving Lefebvre nuts during the week.

"She had a problem with my boyfriend being in here, so we worked it out that he'd stay over on weekends," Kupper said. Lefebvre, who reads up for tomorrow's class in the common area while Kupper is puffing back a smoke outside, is seemingly still adjusting. "It can be distracting," she sighs, before quickly adding, "I like it, though."

For Kupper's first two weeks of school, there were frequent trips to Hull with her boyfriend, to places like Cosmo or Le Bop. Ottawa bars were out, thanks to Ontario's drinking age. "I'm not 19," she says. Solution: booze in the residence. "There aren't supposed to be parties, but people do it anyway." Indeed, on the wall outside her room is a university poster saying, "83 per cent of Carleton residents did not drink alcohol during orientation week 2005," onto which someone has penned, "Who took the survey = losers."

Until 2003, McGill couldn't guarantee first year students a room, which administrators say hampered enrolment at a school where more than half the undergrads are from outside the province. The shortage of rooms also frustrated parents who weren't keen on letting their kids loose in the land of laissez faire. The school's answer is New Res, a 12 storey building once occupied by a hotel, retrofitted with security cameras, a card entry system, security posts and 24 hour guards who dutifully sign in every guest coming through the door.

"The very central and public location of the building makes security an issue," says Janice Johnson, McGill's student housing manager. "New Res gets a lot of traffic, a lot of drop-ins, so a good level of security is necessary."

The rooms are what you'd expect from a former luxury hotel: double beds, stellar views, and carpeting as-yet unscathed by beer stains and cigarette burns. McGill is particularly fussy about upkeep, as the residence turns into a $100-a-night hotel during the summer. The cafeteria is more sushi and stir fry, less chicken burgers and boiled peas.

CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES HAVE RESIDENCE SPACES FOR BARELY ONE IN 10 UNDERGRADS. IT'S A SITUATION THE SCHOOLS ARE TRYING TO ADDRESS.

MOM, AVERT YOUR EYES. Early in the year in residence at Carleton (top) and McGill

"It's basically a four-star hotel," said Dave Cohen, a fourth-year cultural studies major from West Hartford, Conn., who lived in New Res the year it opened. "They've tightened things up a lot since I was there, though. There were only two security guards then. For us, it was basically, 'Do what you want. Here's a bunch of 18-year-olds, go have some fun.'"

But still, all the security in the world can't stop fresh-faced first-years from experiencing Montreal's non-academic splendours. St. Laurent Street, the city's highest concentration of bars and nightclubs, is a five minute walk away. "There's a tunnel underneath the residence," said Vanessa Rwetsiba, a first year arts student from Washington. "You practically don't even have to go outside."

Rwetsiba says residence living is about finding a balance between school and everything else—between the necessities of university life and the temptations that make it fun. Sitting in a puffy armchair in the New Res lobby, she seems blissfully unaware of the security detail behind her. And maybe that's the point: as much as universities might like, they still cannot completely shelter students from the outside world, or from themselves. Real life, as Charlotte Simmons quickly finds out, still gets in the way. M

PHOTOGRAPHS BY TOBIN GRIMSHAW (TOP), RACHEL GRANOFSKY (BOTTOM)

COUNT ON COROLLA.

So why is Corolla the one thing you can count on? If you ask the folks in Cambridge, Ontario, where they're built, they'll tell you the answer is in the details—thousands of little details that add up to a car that people just love to drive. Inspired design that anticipates your needs, quality workmanship that stands up to the test of time and performance that makes even the most ordinary drives enjoyable. And Corolla is available in three well thought out packages. The classic CE model comes loaded with options and packed with value. The more sophisticated LE adds extra safety and luxury to the mix and the Corolla Sport leaves a big impression wherever it goes. For more information you could ask any of the 30 million people around the world who have already bought a Corolla, or you can simply visit toyota.ca.

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ONE THING YOU CAN COUNT ON

JUST A REGULAR NIGHT? For most students, it isn't

IT'S BEER PRESSURE

Students drink less than you think, but feel pressured to drink more

BY JOHN INTINI • "Nobody gets up the morning after a party and says, 'Boy, I can't believe how many people were sober last night,'" says sociology professor Wesley Perkins, who claims that the reality for most students is nothing at all like the *Animal House* stereotype. "At a party, you don't act like a social scientist and pass out surveys to get an accurate cross-section. You only remember the most extreme behaviour."

The fact is that, while studies show that alcohol consumption among college and university students has remained steady for a few decades, Perkins' data—collected from 15,000 students at 10 Canadian schools (including the University of Alberta, Humber College and the University of Toronto) between 2003 and 2006—indicates that the majority "grossly overestimate" how much their peers drink. "Sometimes they double or even triple the reality," says Perkins, the sociology and anthropology department chair at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, N.Y. "A third of students think that their peers are drinking at least three times a week when the average is actually twice a month. When it comes to consumption, two-thirds drink one to four drinks, or not at all. And yet, two-thirds think that their peers average five or more drinks. A quarter of students think that the majority drink seven or more."

That's a problem, he says, because students base personal drinking decisions on this wildly inflated sense of how much everyone else is drinking. "The students who are already involved in heavy drinking think they're like everyone else—their misperceptions reinforce their behaviour," says Perkins. "Students who are not as prone to getting heavily intoxicated, but are ambivalent, are much more likely at a party to take that second, fifth or eighth drink because they think everyone is doing it."

LIGHT DRINKERS ARE OFTEN UNHAPPY AT UNIVERSITY BECAUSE THEY ASSUME—WRONGLY—THAT THEIR PEERS ARE ALL PARTYERS

Non- and lighter drinkers also overestimate their peers' consumption by a wide margin, but are affected differently. It doesn't make them drink more—instead, it makes them like their university experience less. "They're much more likely to be disaffected or alienated," says Perkins. "They don't feel valued at school and aren't happy there."

In another recent study, Edward Adlaf, a research scientist with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, identified several hazardous behaviours linked to excessive drinking. In 2004, he collected data from 6,300 undergraduates at 40 Canadian universities. He found that 14.1 per cent of students reported to having unplanned sex, 9.8 per cent reported sexual harassment, and 10 per cent were involved in assaults. And while 31.6 per cent of undergrads reported at least one of Adlaf's three dependent drinking indicators (being unable to stop, failing to perform normal everyday activities or needing a drink first thing in the morning), he says the vast majority of students don't drink excessively.

The schools were forced to give underage drinking serious thought a few years ago when the double-cohort ushered thousands of especially fresh faces onto campus. "Campuses are managing their parties more effectively—you don't just walk in, grab your cup and drink out of a pail of purple stuff," says Frances Wdowczyk, executive director of the Toronto-based not-for-profit Student Life Education Company. "Even residence floor parties are regulated heavily now. And orientations have gone predominantly dry."

While the majority of drinking happens at parties and off-campus bars, experts argue that the school environment still exacerbates the problem. "Twenty-five per cent of students took advantage of low-priced alcohol promotions," says Adlaf. "Ten per cent attended events on campus with unlimited drinking cover charges." Even some professors are partly to blame. "Faculty members," says Wdowczyk, "who say, 'I'm not going to schedule anything for you guys on Friday because you all come in hungover.' That's a myth." M

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DONALD WEBER

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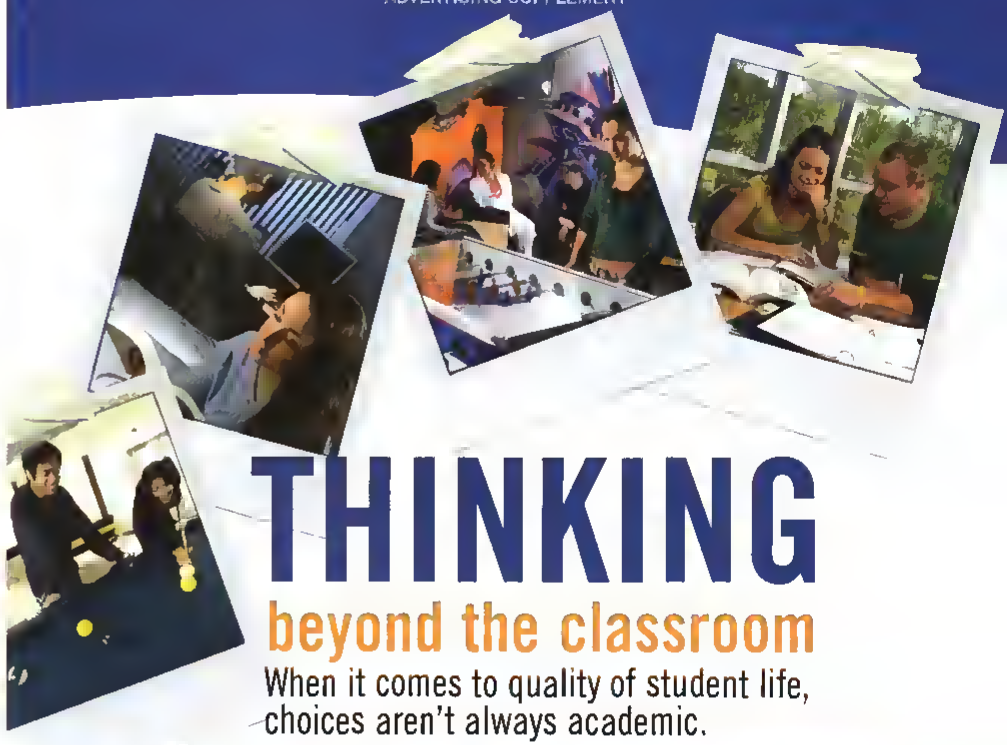


THINKING
beyond the classroom
When it comes to quality of student life, choices aren't always academic.

After a few late nights in the library or lab, it's hard to imagine how a first-year student would get the full benefit of a post-secondary education by living off-premises. It's something many enrolling students don't think of, but it can influence their University or College experience significantly, and can even affect their academic achievement.

MORE THAN A PLACE TO STAY
When students move away from home for the first time, a raft of new experiences is thrust upon them. And while they are most likely well prepared for the "sink or swim" challenges of higher learning, the notion of making and maintaining living arrangements may be beyond their scope. Understandably, few first-year students think past a bed and a place to study, but unexpected challenges and annoying inconveniences can be very disruptive to students. Fortunately for students living in one of 16 state-of-the-art Residence & Conference Centres, life is predictably more comfortable.

Residence & Conference Centre
Please visit our websites:
www.theplace2be.ca | www.campuslivingcentres.com | www.checkintothecentre.com

ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

"Residence & Conference Centres are not your typical college dorms. They're a focal point for student life, where nothing is overlooked," says Kent Williams, RCC's Creative Production Coordinator. Williams should know, because he was once a student living in a Residence & Conference Centre, before joining the company.

A COMMUNITY FOR STUDENTS

Residence & Conference Centres are designed, built and managed by Campus Living Centres to provide a quality customer-friendly residence experience. The priority is to give students a comfortable and secure environment so they can easily acclimate to their new surroundings. These residences are ideal for first-time students who seek to gain independence without being alone, as they offer a unique atmosphere for meeting people without formal demands or expectations.

"We offer unique amenities and meaningful programs for our student guests," explains Lubko Belej, the company's Residence Life Manager. "We get them involved in their residence by making things more fun – and it really helps them build lifelong friendships."

One of their most well-received programs is Residence Rewards. Students participate in a number of campus activities, and earn group points. It could be for intra-mural sports, a recycling program or higher grades. The points accumulate, and the student groups get rewards like movie tickets or pizza parties. And at the semester's end, there is special recognition for community achievements.

QUALITY OF LIVING

Quality of life is the big advantage of living in a Residence & Conference Centre. It offers conveniences that create more time for students to do what they need to do. Ask any number of residents, and the majority will tell you it's living in a hassle-free community at precisely the time when they are not prepared to deal with unwanted hassles – like arranging for utility services, paying bills, or commuting to class. It's just easier to adjust to adult life in a modern residence.

Old-fashioned residences and dorms are no longer cutting it. Each individual Residence & Conference Centre offers accommodations that are a true reflection of modern living. Multi-channel television access is not a luxury, but a mainstay. And nowadays, students need high-speed internet to keep up with their studies, and to keep in touch with their friends and families. Separated sleeping arrangements, comfortable double beds, land-line telephone service, a refrigerator and a microwave oven are all part of the package, as are 24-hour security, a 24-hour customer service desk, housekeeping services and laundry facilities.

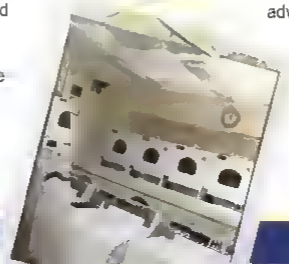
Of course, having a kitchen area with a refrigerator and microwave oven is not a convenience but an essential. On the other hand, most young people aren't used to sharing bedrooms, communal bathrooms and showers, and are adamant about their right to privacy. Today's leading residence facilities are designed and built for campus life, and addressing all of these student concerns and more. Specifically, safety is always an issue (especially to parents) so 24-hour security is an absolute necessity for today's on-campus residences.

MEASURING VALUE AT UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE

Everyone has different expectations from a post-secondary education, but almost all would agree that the campus experience has a great deal to do with the overall outcome. Living on campus in a well-designed and well-managed facility like a Residence & Conference Centre can contribute to the positive student experience by providing extra comfort and instilling greater confidence.

Survey after survey underlines the common truth that life in residence is considered among the best aspects of the undergraduate experience, as many students continue friendships and maintain contacts well into their post-graduate life, when professional networking becomes an essential tool in career advancement.

As such, when students and parents discuss goals and aspirations, they will be



TOP TEN REASONS STUDENTS PREFER RESIDENCE LIVING:

1. Close proximity to school
2. 24-hour support and security
3. Friendly atmosphere
4. Reasonable rates, with flexible payment plans
5. Private and semi-private bathrooms
6. Pre-furnished, includes TV, fridge, microwave, double beds, desks, etc.
7. Housekeeping included
8. On-site laundry facilities
9. Co-ed and same-sex resident areas available
10. Common games room / recreation facility

Sure, you could probably live off campus. But why would you?

2 BE OR NOT 2 BE? *THIS* IS THE QUESTION...

Comparing a Residence & Conference Centre with other accommodations will raise fundamental questions about security, comfort and convenience. Ask anyone who's lived in a full-service residence, and you'll get a straight-up answer.

R= Residence A= Apartment H= Shared Student House

	R	A	H
Location			
• Short, safe, convenient walk to classes	☑		
• Additional time and/or travel costs		☑	☑
Rental Agreement			
• 8 month lease (academic year)	☑		
• 12- month lease		☑	☑
• Responsible for lease if roommate leaves		☑	☑
Security			
• 24-hour trained staff	☑		
• Controlled access entrance	☑	☑	☑
• All public areas are video recorded	☑		
• On-site management	☑	☑	
Amenities			
• Fully furnished suites	☑		
• 24-hour customer service desk	☑		
• Telephone service with voicemail	☑		
• Internet service	☑		
• Cable service	☑		
• Double bed	☑		
• Study/desk work area	☑		
• BBQ facilities and patio	☑		
• 24-hour laundry service	☑	☑	
• Lounges/games room	☑		
Student Life			
• Private bedroom	☑	☑	☑
• Kitchenette	☑	☑	☑
• Private washroom within each suite	☑	☑	☑
• Sense of community	☑		
• Areas for large get-togethers	☑		☑
• On-site residence life staff	☑		
• Regularly organized activities and events	☑		
• Roommate conflict resolution	☑		
Services			
• Light housekeeping	☑		
• Photocopy & fax service	☑		
• Building management	☑	☑	☑

Not all campuses offer full-service residences. Find out more about select university and college residences in Ontario and B.C. at **www.theplace2be.ca**

ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

hard pressed to find a more defining choice than that of student accommodations. With so much at stake, it's no wonder that organizations and individuals are willing to invest in quality facilities and full service amenities to create a total-value package, such as provided by a Residence & Conference Centre facility.

WHAT'S UP WITH THE CONFERENCE CENTRE?
Residence & Conference Centres are well equipped to accommodate overnight guests throughout the summer, while also catering to alumni, corporations and sports organizations that find campus facilities ideal for getaways, conferences and tournaments.

The Residence & Conference Centre model is part of a phenomenon that has grown out of an astute design-and-build approach to property development and facility management.

"It just makes sense," explains Joel Pringle, Vice President of Sales & Marketing for Campus Living Centres. "By maximizing occupancy and revenue during the non-academic year, we are able to keep fee increases to a minimum for the students."

In these days of fiscal responsibility, many forward-thinking institutions are turning to Campus Living Centres for a proven financially responsible residence model. It clearly offers them a win/win partnership that is changing the campus landscape for good.

For more information on individual accommodations and group conference facilities, please visit: **www.checkintothecentre.com**

CAMPUS RESIDENCES OFFER SUMMER "TEST-DRIVE" PROGRAM FOR FIRST-HAND LIVING EXPERIENCE

A well-established residence management organization, Residence & Conference Centre is offering students and their families the unique opportunity to get a real taste of campus life before signing on the dotted line. Students (and parents) can live on their own at an attractive discount rate in one of Residence & Conference Centre's 15 first-class facilities in Ontario (there is also one in B.C.).

"It's a very good arrangement all around," says Paul Holowaty, Executive Vice-President of Campus Living Centres, the company that designs, builds and manages the Residence & Conference Centre facilities. "Students get to check out the conveniences and amenities, and parents see how we are totally focused on the student's comfort, safety and well-being."

When checking in to a Residence & Conference Centre, parents are quick to notice they go beyond the pale of their own campus life recollections. They cater to campus life in every way, and students are truly impressed when they see the resources they will utilize for assignments and presentations, as well as leisure and social activities.

To register for the summer test drive program, visit www.theplace2be.ca

Residence & Conference Centre

Please visit our websites:

www.theplace2be.ca | www.campuslivingcentres.com | www.checkintothecentre.com

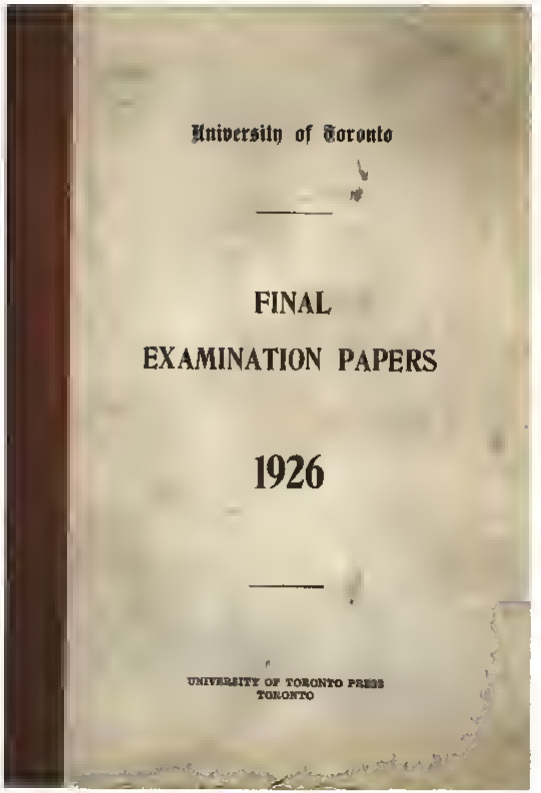
A HISTORY OF THE EXAM

A young Mackenzie King took a final exam. Lester Pearson gave one. Could you pass these tests?

BY BRAD FAUGHT ▪ The modern university final examination has a long pedigree in the West. Paris and Bologna, Oxford and Cambridge, these are the places that provided the sinew for our universities. Medieval students concentrated on the classics, mathematics, and, of course, theology, the so-called queen of the sciences. The state of their knowledge and understanding was examined, usually through an oral exam that came to be called a viva voce. This tradition lives on today in Ph.D. oral exams, the capstone of doctoral-level comprehensive exams. Written exams were slower to develop, but by the time of increasingly literate post-Reformation Europe, they were becoming the standard format for assessing a student's quality of mind.

Since then, exams have had a long and colourful history, their alleged tyranny being routinely decried by some, but their effectiveness in determining academic ability has remained pretty much unassailable. Occasionally, anti-exam forces arise, such as in the student self-evaluation movement of the 1960s. But the essential ridiculousness of the idea never gained much traction in the university world. And so, year after year, final exams visit university campuses. Whether that means cavernous Canadian gymnasia full of bare desks and swirling fans, or Oxford students striding down the High Street wearing examination subfusc (a style of academic dress akin to that worn to a formal dinner party), the exam beat goes on.

Arguably the best exams for revealing how a society views itself are those found in history and political science. These two academic disciplines, 19th-century latecomers to the academy and therefore essentially modern in methodology, are both retrospective and prospective; that is, they can be used as windows into both the past and the present. At the University of Toronto, Canada's largest university and the place from where our sample exams are drawn, the discipline of political science arrived in 1888. An industrial society, as Canada by then was clearly becoming, demanded a means by which to better study itself, said U of T's senate. And so, a few years later, a professorial appointment in "political economy" was made. One of the program's first graduates was a fair-haired young man from Berlin, Ont. (now known as Kitchener), named William Lyon Mackenzie King. King went on to serve almost 22 years as prime minister of Canada, a record for political longevity in the Commonwealth. He was also a brilliant student, racking up five degrees, including a Ph.D. from Harvard, making him the only Canadian prime minister to earn a doctorate.



AS IT WAS. And as it still is. The exam is how most students are evaluated

The political "science" portion of King's 1895 political economy final exam (shown on page 50), was tacked on to the end of a gruelling, four-hour annual exam written by all students in the B.A. program. Canada was young in 1895, and its colonial status is reflected in the fact that only one of the 40 questions on this political economy/science final referenced Canada.

But things change. Moving forward about 30 years brings us to the annual final exam of U of T's history department, to another time, and to another future prime minister. Lester "Mike" Pearson was a 29-year-old history lecturer in 1926. A genial, bright member of the department, he was, however, no scholar, and within two years had found his metier in the Canadian government's fledging Department of External Affairs. In the meantime, though, and with the history department's chairman breathing down his neck to get serious about doing a Ph.D., Pearson had exams to set, such as the one to which he contributed in 1926. It was divided into eight sections, two of which are reproduced on the following pages. Note the primacy of "constitutional" questions, the meaning of which is to be found in the British imperial experience. Note, too, question No. 11, and its reference to "backward native races."

All U of T history students would have written this exam over a span of four hours. Most modern exams are two or three hours in length.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO ARCHIVE

University of Toronto.

ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS . 1895.

FOURTH YEAR.

POLITICAL SCIENCE.

HONORS.

Examiner : JOHN CUMMINGS, PH.D.

Omit not more than four nor less than two questions

1. Give an account of the social contract theory, and of Bentham's objections to its non-historical character.

2. Give Aristotle's conception of the state, and of its relation to the individual.

3. Examine the fundamental conceptions of "Government," "Law," "Right," "Obligation."

4. Give an account of the conception of sovereignty found in the following writers :—Rosseau, Hobbes, Machiavelli, More.

In what sense, if at all, is the British Parliament sovereign ? Tho Congress of the United States ?

5. Write upon *one* of the following topics :

The doctrine of "natural rights."
Aristotle's criticism of Plato's communism.

6 "In ancient society the individual existed for the sake of the State, but in modern society the State exists for the sake of the individual." Examine and criticise

How far, if at all, is the end for which the state exists ethical ?

7. Discuss the theories concerning the origin of the state, and examine the fundamental conceptions of the "state" and of "society."

8. What do you understand to be the scope of Political Science ? What its relation to other social sciences ?

MACKENZIE KING Perhaps the most cerebral of Canada's prime ministers, he wrote this political science final (part of a larger political economy final) in 1895. King is also the only PM to have completed a Ph D., his thesis a weighty tome entitled "Industry and Humanity."

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO ARCHIVE

10. "Victoria was a Stuart Queen on a Hanoverian throne." Discuss

11 "The idea of a necessary antagonism between Great Britain and Russia is the superstition of an antiquated diplomacy." (Lord Salisbury, 1896) Discuss.

12. "The conflict in South Africa between Boer and Briton would have died a natural death, but British imperialism preferred the surgical operation of war." Discuss

13 Discuss the chief criticisms of Sir Edward Grey's conduct of foreign affairs

CANADIAN CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY

Examiners—THE STAFF IN MODERN HISTORY

(*Answer question* ONE *and any two other questions*)

1. Discuss the constitutional problems raised by the following

(a) Carleton's Instructions (1775).
(b) The Ninety-Two Resolutions (1834)
(c) The Ten Resolutions (1837)
(d) Lord John Russell's Despatches (1839-40)
(e) The objections raised to federation in the Canadian Legislature (1864)
(f) The Governor-General's Instructions before and after 1878.
(g) Dismissals of Lieutenant Governors

2. Describe and explain the issues raised by the Proclamation of 1763

3. Discuss the terms of the Constitutional Act of 1791 in the light of the American Revolution.

4. What forces gave Canadian federalism its characteristic aspects?

5 "The Canadian Parliament is subordinate but it possesses absolute powers." Discuss with definite references.

98

6 "Judicial interpretation has made the British North America Act of 1867 a fairly flexible instrument of government." Discuss

7. Discuss control over (a) education, (b) divorce in Canada.

8. Discuss the disallowance of Provincial Acts.

INSTITUTIONS OF THE MODERN BRITISH EMPIRE

Examiners—THE STAFF IN MODERN HISTORY

(*Answer* FOUR *or* FIVE *questions*)

1. Discuss (a) the appointment and (b) the legal status of a Governor-General

2. What attempts have been made in the Irish Free State (a) to create an adequate Second Chamber and (b) to preserve the principle of responsible government?

3. Compare the organization of a Canadian province with that of a South African province.

4. What are the methods of amendment of the Constitutions of Canada and Australia?

5. How are seats distributed in Canada, Australia, and South Africa?

6 What are the limitations on Canadian self-government?

7 What is meant by "dyarchy" in India?

8. Discuss the extent and the organization of the Indian electorate

9 What is the nature of the control exercised by the British Government (a) in Indian Native States, (b) in British Mandated Territories, and (c) in the Sudan?

10 Outline a system of constitutional classification for all the units of the British Empire

11 Discuss the recent developments in the administration of backward native races within the British Empire.

99

LESTER PEARSON The epitome of the all-rounder, Pearson—athlete, academic and diplomat—even managed to marry one of his U of T students As prime minister in the 1960s, he presided over a Canada leaving its colonial past behind But as a history professor administering this 1926 exam, the British Empire remained central to the country's place in the world

CHEATING'S NEW LOOK

It's never been easier to find someone to do your homework. For a price.

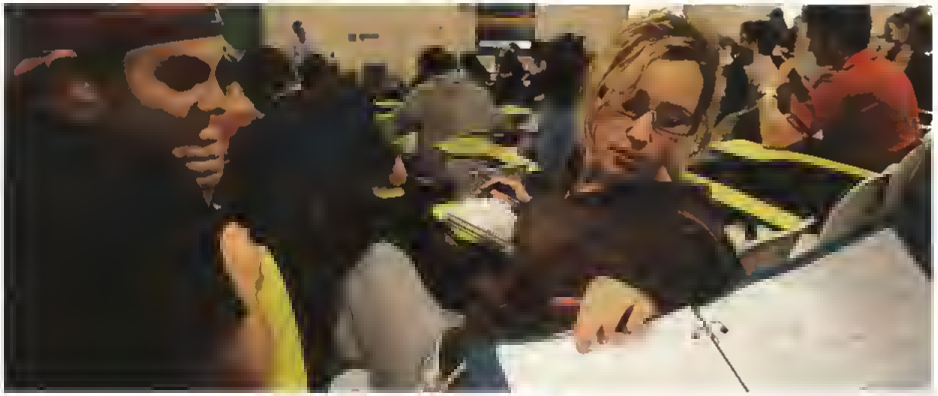
BY CAMERON AINSWORTH-VINCZE • *It is widely felt that cheating in Canadian universities has reached grim proportions For one thing, a study conducted recently by the University of Guelph found that 18 per cent of university undergraduates admitted to cheating on an examination or test—which translates into roughly one out of five students "breaking the rules," even though they are fully aware that to do so places them in serious jeopardy With the above in mind, the following paper will examine how students are cheating—what "methods" they are employing, in other words—as well as what types of students are cheating and how universities are dealing with the problem*

The above, and the italicized passages throughout this story, come from a customized research paper that *Maclean's* ordered off the Internet from the website *essayexperts.ca*, a Toronto-based company that bills itself as an "academic assistance resource centre" We requested a four-page, undergraduate-level research paper on the following topic: "I would like the essay to examine how students are cheating (using the Internet, cheat sheets, looking at other peoples' work, etc), which students are cheating, and how universities are dealing with the problem" We asked that the paper be formatted according to Modern Language Association (MLA) style, and that at least six sources be cited Within seconds we received a quote, saying the paper could be completed for $135.80, plus a $2 fee to have it sent directly to a Hotmail account We gave our credit card number, and our paper arrived three days later, via email, neatly formatted in Word, and including a title page, a bibliography with the promised six sources and the following disclaimer: "All custom essays written by Essay Experts are meant for research purposes only and not meant for submission in whole, or in part, for academic credit" Welcome to the modern age of cheating at university It is sophisticated, callous and calls into question the entire purpose of pursuing a higher education

Just how widespread is cheating? The study cited in the customized paper, by Julia Christensen Hughes of the University of Guelph and Donald McCabe of Rutgers University, found that 53 per cent of undergraduate students at 11 Canadian universities admitted they had "seriously" cheated on a written project The most common types of cheating include working with others on an individual assignment, getting questions and answers from someone who has already taken a test, falsifying lab data, and copying a few sentences from the Internet or another source without footnoting

There is some evidence that a pervasive subculture of "cut and paste" cheats are emerging who simply view the Internet as an easy means of accessing information they would presumably have difficulty finding elsewhere

On websites such as *superiorpapers.com*, *essaywriters.com* and *go-essays.com*, students can purchase thousands of pre-written papers that can be delivered within minutes The sites also promise more expensive customized papers, which can be turned around in as little as a few hours We ordered a five-page pre-written paper entitled, "Canadian Crime A look at crime in Canada and why more Canadians are beginning to carry firearms," for $115 from *essaywriters.com*, a company based in New Jersey Dr Thomas Gabor, a criminology professor at the University of Ottawa, analyzed the paper He found the work outdated, the assertions supported by weak references, and noted that an American probably wrote the piece because it mentions a shooting that occurred during a "Fourth of July parade in Montreal" But most alarming was that several paragraphs appeared to be from an article written by none other than Dr Gabor "I haven't examined the originality and hesitate to do so, or it may compel me to take some form of action," says Gabor Had a student handed in this paper, he says he would likely have failed them



YEAH, I BOUGHT THAT ESSAY TOO. These days, cheating can be as easy as going online

PHOTOGRAPH BY TOBIN GRIMSHAW

"Buyer beware," says John Barrie, president of iParadigms LLC "Think of the ethics of the people you are dealing with If they're so unethical as to sell you a paper for class, they may be so unethical as to plagiarize the paper that they sell to you" Barrie's company runs the anti-plagiarism website *turnitin.com* His business is helping schools catch cheats To sniff out fraudulent material, *turnitin.com* uses text matching software and databases filled with previously submitted papers, published Web pages dating back to 1999, and commercial sources such as academic journals He estimates that of the 80,000 papers submitted on an average day, from over 6,500 institutions around the world, nearly 30 per cent contain plagiarized material Barrie says approximately 40 Canadian universities and hundreds of high schools currently subscribe to *turnitin.com*

There is certainly widespread evidence that students will resort to cheating because they do not want to make the effort to learn and understand

Perhaps the most intriguing and novel form of cheating occurring in cyberspace is taking place on websites such as *rentacoder.com*, *getacoder.com* and *elance.com* There, on sites usually reserved for freelance computer programmers and designers, some students are essentially putting their homework out to tender—farming the job of getting their B.A out to the highest bidder And they don't hide the fact that they are breaking the rules "I will email you a word doc with exact details of the projects," wrote one student on *rentacoder.ca* "It is homework for a college class I need this done by Sunday at midnight If you finish by 12 noon on Sunday I'll send you a $25 bonus and/or if the papers get an A I will send you a $25 bonus" The student who wrote this request added at the end of their posting that they were looking for somebody to work on future jobs In other words, they want a degree without having to do the work.

Christensen Hughes, who is also president of the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, says that, despite the advent of the Web, the most common form of cheating is still the oldest trick in the book, writing answers on body parts or pieces of clothing "Females have been known to write on their thighs and wear short skirts," she says "Would an invigilator have the nerve to ask?" And according to her study, 46 per cent of faculty and 38 per cent of teaching assistants admitted they ignored suspected cases of cheating "A lot of faculty are unsure of what amount of proof is sufficient," says Christensen Hughes "Or they are told they don't have enough evidence, that their word isn't enough"

ON SOME WEBSITES, STUDENTS ARE ESSENTIALLY PUTTING ASSIGNMENTS OUT TO TENDER—FARMING THEIR COURSEWORK OUT TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER

To resolve the problem, she believes administrators and faculty need to openly discuss viable policies that can be enforced, and that it is critical to educate students about the topic "We spend a lot of time telling people plagiarism is bad and if you do it you'll be punished," she says "But have we talked to them about why it is important?" To curb instances of cheating, Christensen Hughes notes that certain techniques can be used Teachers can place stipulations on what sources are permissible, students can be required to hand in photocopies of their research, assignments can be done in class, and professors can talk with students about projects in advance to have a sense of what the student is doing

Yet no matter what avenue a university pursues in eliminating instances of cheating, it ultimately comes down to a student's ethical standards and the willingness of a teacher to enforce the rules, while discussing the importance of those rules "Integrity has to be a core value of academia," says Christensen Hughes Or as our custom-made research paper concluded *In the end, education and strict enforcement should be at the top of any school's agenda* M

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GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE

SEE THE FUTURE There are empty seats in this 3D anatomy lecture at Western, but humanities courses are full. Is that a problem?

PHOTOGRAPH BY SIMON HAYTER

Should everyone go to university?

Canadians have more years of schooling than any other country. It's not necessarily time well-spent.

BY ANDREW POTTER • In his book *The World is Flat*, Thomas Friedman wrote that he wanted to put every man and woman on a campus. He meant American men and women, but the unqualified value of a university degree is an article of faith about which Canadians are every bit as pious as Americans. Let us call this the "more is better" education agenda.

This agenda sits perched atop two pillars. The first is that higher education is a great personal investment. It has been pretty well established that graduating from university is an excellent financial decision, with the earnings gap between a high school and university graduate growing larger every year. University graduates also enjoy lots of other non-market benefits, including a lifetime of better mental and physical health, stronger social networks, and higher social status.

The second pillar rests on the grounds that mass participation in PSE has spillover effects that benefit not just individual students but the public as a whole. These include high levels of citizen engagement, increased tolerance of diversity, and decreased reliance on public insurance plans such as unemployment insurance. At the same time, public investment in PSE is assumed to be crucial to maintaining the country's competitive position in the global economy.

Put these together and the conclusion writes itself. The benefits to education are so great that they justify—nay, demand—substantial public subsidies to universities, with the goal of putting as many people through university as possible.

The unargued premise in this view is that the more education you have, no matter what the faculty or discipline, the better. The idea is that people go to school to acquire what the economists call "human capital" in the form of knowledge and skills, which they are then able to sell on the open market to employers. The problem is that the human capital acquired in university is not a common currency, and depending on the shape of the job market landscape, some forms of knowledge will be more valuable than others.

Let's drop the cant: that B.A. you have your eye on may not be the smartest way to invest the next four years of your life.

There is not a tremendous amount of data on the long-term earnings of Canadian graduates broken down by field of study, but a 2001 StatsCan study looked at the market outcomes for bachelor's graduates in British Columbia between 1974 and 1996. It found that shortly after graduation, students from the fine arts and humanities were at the bottom of the income scale, with students from engineering and the health sciences at the

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top The gap narrows somewhat over time, but over a career cycle the earnings of humanities students are substantially lower than those in health and the applied sciences

For male humanities grads, the predicted median income five years after graduation is $29,126, climbing to $54,435 after 20 years For male graduates from engineering and applied sciences, the corresponding numbers are $55,035 and $74,228 It is a similar story for women The predicted median income of women with humanities degrees is $25,468 after five years and $37,775 at 20 years For health graduates, the equivalent figures are $41,606 and $42,831

A recent OECD study caused no small amount of consternation when it found that despite the fact that we have the highest level of post-secondary education on earth, the unemployment rate among graduates is notably higher in Canada than in any other advanced economy There are a few possible explanations for why this should be so, but one we should consider is that what we have is a misallocation of educational resources After all, Canada has the second lowest proportion of graduates with degrees in science and technology of any OECD country, and it is instructive to look at the distribution of the types of degrees awarded in each country In Korea, Germany and Scandinavia, science degrees (that is, degrees in engineering, health, mathematics, computing, physical sciences, agriculture and life sciences) make up between 45 and 50 per cent of all degrees awarded In the rest of Europe and Japan, the figure varies between 35 and 50 per cent. In Canada, the proportion is a mere 30 per cent

CANADA HAS THE OECD'S SECOND-LOWEST PROPORTION OF GRADS IN SCIENCE AND TECH, DESPITE A GROWING DEMAND FOR THESE SKILLS

Now, a lack of graduates in science and technology doesn't necessarily mean economic ruin After all, Canada has only the second-lowest proportion of graduates in science and technology of any OECD country The U S is in last place, but down there, non-science and tech grads are more concentrated in business programs than they are here in Canada That isn't surprising, since America is a country with a lot of multinational head office jobs to fill

North of the border, it is harder to see how our devotion to the arts and humanities actually fits with the economy's still substantial tilt towards the natural resources It may be that we are educating people for jobs that either do not exist, or which pay so poorly that many graduates opt not to do them at all As the historian of economics David Warsh puts it at the end of his recent book *Knowledge and the Wealth of Nations*, "it's not enough to send large numbers of kids to college to study alternation and folklore, only to graduate them into an economy for whose few opportunities they are ill-suited."

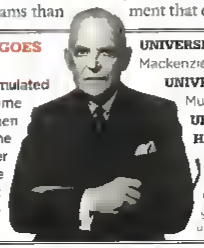
The fact is, almost no jobs require that the employee first spend four years drinking, reading and socializing. What the arts degree really provides is not human capital, but a credential Employers like credentials because of what they signal about a student's motivation, character and contacts, and—especially—her ability to persevere in a task.

But the signal turns to noise as more people acquire the credential As the bachelor's degree becomes more common, employers start to look for students with more, or better, degrees This is why more and more people find themselves going on to graduate or professional school—they need to distinguish themselves in a crowded field Here in Canada, we are rapidly approaching a state where having a bachelor's degree is worth nothing more than the price of admission to the competition, with the promise of many more years of hoop jumping to come

In the end, the education agenda is a false god The belief that what everyone needs is more education, and that the public should help fund it, might be doing little more than fuelling an educational arms race The result may be underemployment and dashed expectations, with all the regret and resentment that entails M

THE PRIME MINISTER GOES TO UNIVERSITY

Canada's 22 PMs have accumulated a total of 37 degrees Some (like Paul Martin and Stephen Harper) have more than one degree And some (five) never went to university at all Here are the universities that can claim more than two Canadian PMs as graduates



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO 4 (Meighen, Mackenzie King Pearson Martin)
UNIVERSITÉ LAVAL 3 (St. Laurent Mulroney Chrétien)
UBC 2 (Turner Campbell)
HARVARD 2 (Mackenzie King Trudeau)
McGILL 2 (Abbott Laurier)
OXFORD 2 (Pearson Turner)

St Laurent (left) Note Includes undergraduate and graduate degrees

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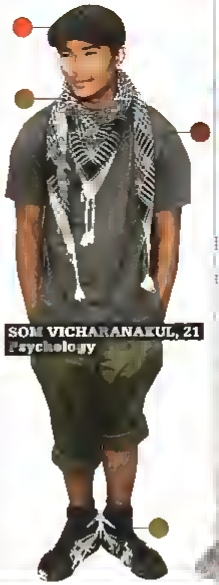
CAMPUS LOOKS

JUST AS THEY HAVE FOR DECADES, students still roll out of bed, late for class, throw on sweatpants and go—only now those jogging pants cost a hundred bucks and have words like "Juicy" written across the bum. An informal survey of style at the University of Toronto finds that hippies still dress in Guatemalan patterns and backpacks are still too big—although more than half the students seem to be moving to one shoulder bags for laptops. As always, you can't go wrong in jeans and a T shirt, especially if paired with Converse All Stars or Vans checkerboard Sptcoli's. Some current fashions seem a little retro, including the skinny, tapered jeans for guys and gals and the '80s pairing of long sweaters with tights and flat ballet-type shoes for women. Most students either splurge on designer items, or rely heavily on cheap deals at second-hand stores like Value Village and the city's Kensington Market, although some admit to being partial to expensive new clothes that are made to look like second-hand items. Choosing comfort above all else, women show up to class in trendy yoga gear and Ugg boots, while guys are still rocking the eternally popular shorts and flip-flops. Although, if you keep an eye out, you'll encounter the occasional person on campus who's got an original, well-defined style—whether by making their own clothes, raiding their mom, dad, sister or brother's closet, patronizing local designers exclusively, or using summer trips to Europe to deck out their closets. Agnieszka Polakowska even has a motto. "The worse I feel, the better I look." *Shanda Deziel*

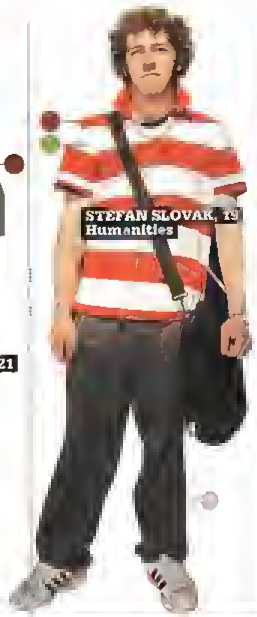
MEAGHAN COLLINS, 21
Art history/English

CHRIS CACHIA, 26
Teachers' College

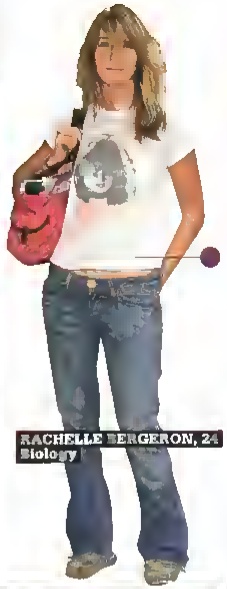
AGNIESZKA POLAKOWSKA, 30
Ph.D. Polish literature



SOM VICHARANAKUL, 21
Psychology



STEFAN SLOVAK, 19
Humanities



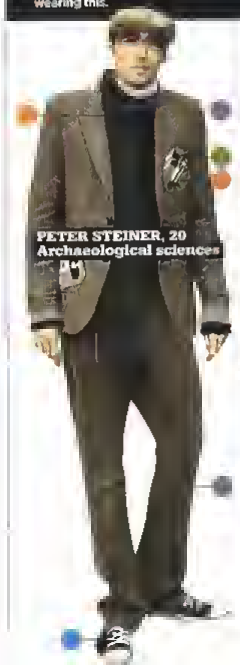
RACHELLE BERGERON, 24
Biology

THE LEGEND:

- Stolen from my sister's closet—she'd kill me if she knew I was wearing this.
- Blew my money on clothes overseas this summer. Don't tell my folks—it's designer.
- Thrift store chic.
- I have one for every day of the week.
- I conform, err shop, at Abercrombie & Fitch, American Eagle, Hollister, etc.
- Not the first university student to wear this and won't be the last.
- Holy Cyndi Lauper! It's the return of the '80s look.
- I made this myself!
- It's called the "distressed look"—pay a lot of money for things that are about to fall apart.
- Just rolled out of bed.
- This look will be trendy for a semester.
- My style: be original.

ADITAYA SHARMA, 18
Commerce

JOANNE KONG, 21,
East Asian studies/
Political science



PETER STEINER, 20
Archaeological sciences

JULIA CHAE, 24
Sociology

PHOTOGRAPHS BY TOB BORMSHAW

MIA HUNT, 25
Urban planning

SERENA GASPARITSCH, 20
Near & Middle Eastern civilizations and politics

LOU CHAN
Commerce

ASHLEIGH ADDISON, 20
English

WHO EARNS WHAT

University heads make more than the PM, less than athletes and CEOs

BY SANDY FARRAN • How much are university presidents paid? And are they underpaid or overpaid? The answer depends to some extent on another question: compared to whom?

Benchmarked against professional athletes and CEOs, Canadian university presidents seem underpaid. Compared to their peers at American private universities (several U.S. private university presidents make over US$1 million) and at U.S. public universities (where the median compensation is

ALBERTA BOUND The president of the U of A is the country's highest paid

US$360,000), the pay packets of Canadian presidents seem to be about in the ballpark. Compared to other Canadian public officials, however, such as the prime minister and provincial premiers, they appear to be overpaid.

Until recent years, university presidents didn't make much more than professors. That changed when institutions began to be run more like corporations. Last year, 18 university presidents earned over $300,000, including Alberta president Indira Samarasekera, who broke the half-million mark. Like many of her peers, her package includes house and car allowances, performance bonuses and deferred compensation. Interestingly, the highest-paid university official in the country appears to be Felix Chee of U of T, who made just under $600,000 in 2005. His job: CEO of U of T Asset Management Corporation, which runs the university's money.

All figures listed here are for 2005, except where otherwise indicated. In some cases the most recent figures available are for 2004, and in the case of UBC, Brock, Regina and Harvard, the occupant of the president's chair has changed in the past year. We have listed the name and compensation of the previous president as that is all that is publicly available. In addition, provincial salary disclosure reports don't always show full-year compensation for new presidents. David Naylor's compensation package at U of T, for example, includes the part of the year when he was dean of medicine, and his taxable benefits for housing only represent the part of the year he lived in the university-owned president's home. M

INSTITUTION	PRESIDENT	SALARY	OTHER COMPENSATION	TOTAL
Royal Bank	**Gordon Nixon (CEO)**	**$1,400,000**	**$8,912,595**	**$10,312,595**
Calgary Flames	**Jerome Iginla (Captain)**	**US$7,000,000**	**–**	**US$7,000,000**
U Michigan*	**Mary Sue Coleman**	**US$501,458**	**US$223,148**	**US$724,604**
Alberta	Indira Samarasekera	$366 000	$190 000	$556,000
Harvard**	**Lawrence Summers**	**US$522,714**	**US$31,384**	**US$554,098**
Calgary	Harvey Weingarten	$309 000	$140 000	$449,000
UBC**	Martha Piper	$350 000	$84,567	$434 567
McMaster	Peter George	$410 055	$10 259	$420 314
U.S. President	**George W. Bush**	**US$400,000**	**–**	**US$400,000**
Waterloo	David Johnston	$382 999	$14,231	$397,230
McGill*	Heather Munroe-Blum	$369 250	$22 496	$391 746
Victoria	David Turpin	$290 000	$93 500	$383 500
Lethbridge	William Cade	$271 000	$111 000	$382 000
Simon Fraser	Michael Stevenson	$305 000	$68 972	$373 972
Toronto	David Naylor	$354 117	$8 042	$362 159
York	Lorna Marsden	$347 347	$3 647	$350 994
Western	Paul Davenport	$314 574	$19 875	$334 449
UNBC	Don Cozzetto (2006)	$250 000	$78 200	$328 200
Manitoba	Emöke Szathmáry	$320 195	–	$320 195
Queen's	Karen Hitchcock	$306 425	$10 968	$317 393
Guelph	Alastair Summerlee	$273 062	$32 485	$305 547
Ottawa	Gilles Patry	$293 265	$11 820	$305 085
Wilfrid Laurier	Robert Rosehart	$291 851	$10 238	$302 089
Prime Minister	**Stephen Harper**	**$295,400**	**$2,122**	**$297,522**
Chief Justice	**Beverley McLachlin**	**$297,100**	**–**	**$297,100**
Windsor	Ross Paul	$280 337	$15 960	$296 297
Dalhousie*	Thomas Traves	$253 653	$42 286	$295 939
Saskatchewan	Peter MacKinnon	$275 000	$7,200	$282 200
Montréal	Luc Vinet	$260 000	–	$260 000
Trent	Bonnie Patterson	$235 499	$22 475	$257 974
Winnipeg	Lloyd Axworthy	–	–	$249 298
Laurentian	Judith Woodsworth	$225 825	$21 825	$247,650
Brock**	Terrence Boek (acting)	$231 139	$11 099	$242 238
Regina**	David Barnard	$215 710	$26 414	$242,124
Memorial	Axel Meisen	$230 685	$7 861	$238 546
Acadia	Gail Dexter-Gottlieb	$213 377	$24,000	$237,377
Lakehead	Frederick Gilbert	$236 038	$1 137	$237 175
Saint Mary's	Colin Dodds	$185,000	$44 300	$229 300
Nipissing	Dennis Mock	$222 603	$6 169	$228 772
St. Francis Xavier	Sean Riley	$200,000	$22,287	$222 287
Sherbrooke	Bruno-Marie Béchard	$211 000	–	$211 000
Cape Breton	John Harker	$183 917	$25 526	$209 443
Brandon*	Louis Visentin	–	–	$207 050
Laval	Michel Pigeon	$205 000	–	$205 000
Ryerson	Sheldon Levy	$173 109	$3 370	$176 479
Mt. Saint Vincent	Kathryn Laurin (2006)	$175 000	–	$175 000
Carleton	David Atkinson	$125 051	$30 175	$155 226
Premier (Alberta)	**Ralph Klein**	**$145,380**	**–**	**$145,380**
Bishop's*	Robert Poupart	$83,037	$1 152	$84 189

Note: All figures for 2005 unless otherwise noted. No information available for Concordia, Moncton, Mount Allison, New Brunswick, UPEI and St. Thomas. * 2004 data. ** 2004 data: the presidents of these universities have since changed.
SOURCES: CAUT Almanac of Post-secondary Education, 2006; The Chronicle of Higher Education; provincial reports; universities

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN ULAN/EPIC PHOTOGRAPHY

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UNIVERSITIES BY THE NUMBERS

What students think, what the experts say, and what the hard data tell about 47 Canadian universities

THE FOLLOWING 34 PAGES hold a wealth of information to help students prepare for one of life's most important decisions: choosing a university.

Our coverage opens with key feedback from people in the know: university students. They were asked to pass judgment on their universities, here are the results. We present three comprehensive surveys of student and recent graduate satisfaction: the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), the Canadian Undergraduate Survey Consortium (CUSC), and the *Maclean's* University Graduate Survey. Published here are responses to questions about the quality of teaching, the overall educational experience, and whether students would, if given the choice, attend their university again, or recommend it to a friend or relative.

Offering another point of view, we follow with the *Maclean's* reputational survey, reflecting the opinions of more than 1,000 university officials, high school principals and guidance counsellors from every province and territory, the heads of a wide variety of national and regional organizations, plus CEOs and recruiters at corporations large and small. *Maclean's* approached these individuals because their professions put them in a position to form opinions about how well universities are meeting the needs of students and producing quality graduates.

Rounding out the package are the 16th annual *Maclean's* University Rankings. Focusing on the quality of the undergraduate experience, the ranking covers a broad spectrum, assessing university performance on two dozen indicators across six major areas: student body, classes, faculty, finances, library and reputation.

All the numbers behind the rankings are presented on 19 pages of breakout charts: everything from average entering grades, class sizes and faculty awards to spending on libraries, student services and scholarships and bursaries. Also included is a listing of undergraduate arts and science tuition, from the country's least expensive to the most, as well as a directory showing the location and student population at all 47 ranked Canadian universities.

A key part of *Maclean's* expanded university coverage this year is the new, online Personalized University Ranking Tool. Users can go to *www.macleans.ca/university* and create their own customized evaluation of Canada's universities, using the same exclusive database of 24 indicators behind the annual *Maclean's* rankings. This tool offers users the ability to select up to seven indicators, and then weight them according to the user's own preferences. In other words, potential students can create a university evaluation based solely on criteria that matter most to them. M

PHOTOGRAPH BY SIMON HAYTER

SLIDING: Big schools aren't always best, say their students

PHOTOGRAPH BY TOBIN GRIMSHAW

Students grade their universities

Many top schools get less than stellar marks from their own students

BY SANDY FARRAN • If you're wondering whether you'll enjoy dining at a certain restaurant, you may want to consider the opinion of people who have already eaten there. If you're planning on buying a new car, it pays to know what current owners have to say about the quality and reliability of different models. And when considering a university, you'd be well advised to talk to people with first-hand experience: students. Most parents and prospective students do that by talking to a few friends or acquaintances. The sample size is small, the information is anecdotal. There is a more scientific way.

On the pages that follow are the results of three national surveys. Two are surveys of university students, the other is a poll of recent graduates. In total, more than 54,000 people responded. They were asked some basic questions about their university experience: are you satisfied with the quality of teaching at your university? How would you rate the overall educational experience? Would you recommend this university to a friend or relative? Are you satisfied with your decision to attend?

The results are often surprising. Broadly speaking, they show that students at small, primarily undergraduate universities are often more satisfied and more engaged than their peers on larger, often urban, campuses. They show a number of less prestigious universities whose students are quite happy with the education they received, and many high prestige institutions—including some leaders on the annual *Maclean's* university rankings—whose students have markedly less positive things to say about their experience. The results also show many large Canadian institutions underperforming their American peers.

However, though many large institutions do poorly on measures of student satisfaction, some do extremely well, raising questions as to why they outperformed, and what they are doing differently than their peers. Being relatively large is not necessarily a barrier to student satisfaction and engagement, at least according to students at mid- to large-sized institutions such as Queen's, Guelph, Waterloo and McMaster.

The surveys do show that students on the whole are more satisfied than not with their university educations. For all institutions,

THE SURVEYS: WHAT THEY ARE, AND HOW THEY WERE DONE

You will find results from three surveys on the following pages: the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), the Canadian Undergraduate Survey Consortium (CUSC), and the *Maclean's* University Graduate Survey. Both the NSSE and CUSC, which were commissioned by the universities, ask more than 100 questions about specific aspects of the undergraduate experience—inside the classroom and beyond—designed to provide universities with data to help them assess programs and services. On the accompanying pages are the responses to several of those questions.

Launched in 1994, CUSC is coordinated through the University of Manitoba's department of housing and student life. In 2005, 28 universities took part, sending surveys to a random sample of approximately 1,000 undergrads each. A total of 12,783 students responded.

The U.S.-based NSSE began as a pilot project in 1999 and is distributed to first- and senior-year students. In 2004, 11 Canadian universities participated for the first time with 14,267 students completing the survey. Two of those universities, Carleton and York, as well as eight other Canadian institutions, took part in the 2005 NSSE. That year, the average response rate was 43 per cent with 12,593 students responding.

The NSSE charts published on the accompanying pages list 18 Canadian universities that participated in either the 2004 or 2005 surveys. For each institution, we display results from the most recent survey in which they took part. Institutions that did not disclose their NSSE and/or CUSC results are listed in the tables, and identified as "Refused to make this information public."

Participants for the *Maclean's* survey were randomly selected from those who graduated in 2002, 2003 and 2004. The 23 participating universities contacted selected grads by email and/or surface mail, inviting them to participate. Smaller universities, with fewer than 1,333 grads per graduating year, surveyed all graduates. Larger institutions could elect to survey all grads or implement a sampling plan—developed by the *Maclean's* project statistician—to survey a minimum of 4,000 grads.

The survey was conducted online and asked graduates eight questions about the quality of their student experience and the impact that their university had on their lives. The website was active from April 24 to June 1. To ensure that only those who had been chosen could take part, each individual was assigned a unique PIN number. These PINs allowed *Maclean's* to identify grads by university, graduation year and program, while guarding their anonymity.

The *Maclean's* survey achieved a 21 per cent response rate, 14,697 graduates from 23 universities took part. The results, when presented for all universities, are accurate within 0.8 per cent, 19 times out of 20. Individual institutional accuracy varies from plus or minus 2.7 per cent to plus or minus 6.8 per cent. For each university, the survey data were weighted by graduating year and program, to minimize non-response bias.

Maclean's commissioned an independent ethical review by ethica Clinical Research Inc. of Montreal. It gave the survey its unconditional approval.

NATIONAL SURVEY OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (NSSE)

Hundreds of American universities, and a growing number of Canadian institutions, participate in this annual undergraduate survey. Listed here are 18 Canadian universities that took part in 2004 or 2005. For each of these, we show only their most recent results. For comparison, we have included the 2004 results from the AAUDE, a group of leading U.S. public universities.

HOW WOULD YOU EVALUATE YOUR ENTIRE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE AT THIS INSTITUTION?

FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS	EXCELLENT (%)	GOOD (%)
Queen's	55	38
Western	45	42
Guelph	44	47
Waterloo	43	43
McMaster	41	45
U.S. peer group*	**37**	**51**
McGill	34	50
Acadia	29	57
Toronto	29	45
Ryerson	28	50
Carleton	24	55
Alberta	23	55
Calgary	20	57
York	20	56
UBC	19	52
Ottawa	19	59
Regina	16	64
Windsor	15	57
New Brunswick	*Refused to make this information public*	

SENIOR-YEAR STUDENTS	EXCELLENT (%)	GOOD (%)
Queen's	48	42
Guelph	45	44
McMaster	38	48
Waterloo	38	47
U.S. peer group*	**36**	**50**
Acadia	33	53
McGill	32	49
Western	32	52
Alberta	25	56
Toronto	24	48
Ryerson	22	52
UBC	20	53
Carleton	20	59
Regina	20	58
York	20	56
Windsor	19	57
Calgary	16	53
Ottawa	13	54
New Brunswick	*Refused to make this information public*	

IF YOU COULD START OVER AGAIN, WOULD YOU GO TO THE SAME INSTITUTION YOU ARE NOW ATTENDING?

FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS	DEFINITELY YES (%)	PROBABLY YES (%)
Queen's	64	27
Guelph	58	34
Waterloo	53	35
McGill	52	34
McMaster	52	37
Western	51	37
U.S. peer group*	**50**	**38**
Ryerson	42	42
Acadia	41	42
Toronto	41	41
Alberta	38	51
UBC	36	50
Ottawa	35	48
Carleton	33	49
York	31	49
Calgary	29	52
Regina	29	57
Windsor	26	48
New Brunswick	*Refused to make this information public*	

SENIOR-YEAR STUDENTS	DEFINITELY YES (%)	PROBABLY YES (%)
Queen's	57	31
Guelph	54	34
McGill	47	38
McMaster	46	39
Waterloo	46	36
U.S. peer group*	**46**	**38**
Western	43	38
Acadia	39	39
Alberta	34	48
UBC	32	47
Carleton	32	47
Ryerson	31	46
Toronto	30	40
Regina	29	49
York	27	46
Windsor	24	46
Ottawa	22	45
Calgary	20	46
New Brunswick	*Refused to make this information public*	

*U.S. peer institutions are members of the AAUDE, a group of major American public universities. The results are for 2004.

CANADIAN UNDERGRADUATE SURVEY CONSORTIUM (CUSC)

Universities participating in CUSC sent an extensive questionnaire to a random sampling of 1,000 undergraduates, asking for feedback on everything from academics to support services to campus safety. The CUSC results show a strong relationship between school size and satisfaction—with students at smaller schools generally more satisfied than their large school peers.

HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE OVERALL QUALITY OF THE EDUCATION YOU HAVE RECEIVED AT THIS UNIVERSITY?

	VERY SATISFIED (%)	SATISFIED (%)
Nipissing	35	55
Wilfrid Laurier	30	60
Winnipeg	30	60
Brock	26	63
UNBC	25	61
Mount Saint Vincent	24	64
Carleton	23	66
Simon Fraser	23	64
Dalhousie	22	64
Lethbridge	22	68
Victoria	22	67
UNB (Fredericton)	19	67
Ryerson	19	66
Toronto (Scarborough)	19	62
Alberta	17	70
UBC	17	65
Lakehead	17	70
Regina	17	69
Saint Mary's	17	70
Windsor	15	68
Calgary	13	62
Manitoba	13	72
Montréal	12	67
Ottawa	12	72
Saskatchewan	12	74
York	12	68
Concordia	*Refused to make this information public*	

I AM SATISFIED WITH MY DECISION TO ATTEND THIS UNIVERSITY.

	AGREE STRONGLY (%)	AGREE (%)
Wilfrid Laurier	51	44
Nipissing	50	44
Montréal	39	54
UNBC	39	54
Winnipeg	39	55
Brock	38	55
Victoria	36	57
Carleton	34	59
Mount Saint Vincent	33	57
Lethbridge	30	65
Dalhousie	29	58
UNB (Fredericton)	29	63
Ryerson	29	57
Ottawa	28	61
Saint Mary's	28	62
Alberta	27	66
Lakehead	27	62
Simon Fraser	27	58
UBC	25	58
Toronto (Scarborough)	24	55
Regina	23	67
Manitoba	22	68
Saskatchewan	22	70
York	22	64
Windsor	21	64
Calgary	14	56
Concordia	*Refused to make this information public*	

the two possible positive responses—such as "excellent" and "good" or "agree strongly" and "agree"—were chosen by survey takers more often than the negative responses.

The telling difference is between universities that received a high number of "excellent" or "agree strongly" responses, and those where few students were willing to offer the strongest level of support.

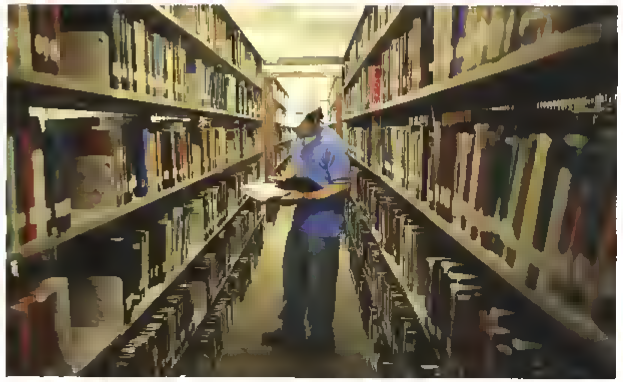
All three surveys are scientific studies, with the individuals who took part randomly chosen, and representative of the underlying population of students or grads. (For more on the methodology, see the sidebar "The surveys: what they are and how they were done.") Two of the studies—the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and the Canadian Undergraduate Survey Consortium (CUSC)—were conducted by and for the universities. The results published on these pages have traditionally been for university administrators' eyes only. For many schools, this information has never before been made public. The third study, the *Maclean's* University Graduate Survey, was conducted on behalf of *Maclean's*, with the co-operation of 23 universities.

The survey results point to two long-standing sources of concern among some observers of Canada's universities: a sense that undergraduate teaching is not sufficiently valued at Canada's big research universities, and the challenge taxpayers and students have in assessing individual university performance, because of a dearth of information.

When asked which university services were most in need of improvement, 41 per cent of students taking part in the 2005 CUSC survey named "emphasis on teaching excellence" as a top priority. Students at large research universities were the most likely to have called for a greater emphasis on teaching, with 48 per cent of them calling it a priority, compared to just 32 per cent at small, largely undergraduate institutions. And when CUSC asked them to respond to the following statement—"Generally I am satisfied with the quality of teaching I have received"—only 11 per cent of students at large research universities answered "agree strongly."

A similar big school/small school split was in evidence when CUSC asked students to respond to the statement, "I am satisfied with my decision to attend this university." At small undergraduate universities, 39 per cent agreed strongly, compared to only 25 per cent at large research universities taking part in CUSC. And nearly twice as many students at large schools disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement.

When asked about their "satisfaction with overall quality of education," there was, again,



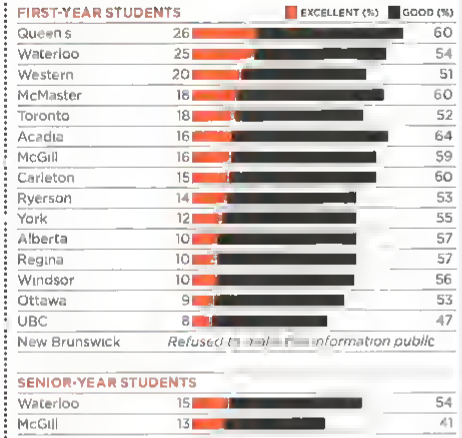
THINK SMALL: Students at smaller institutions are more likely to be satisfied. Why?

PHOTOGRAPH BY SIMON HAYTER

NATIONAL SURVEY OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (NSSE)

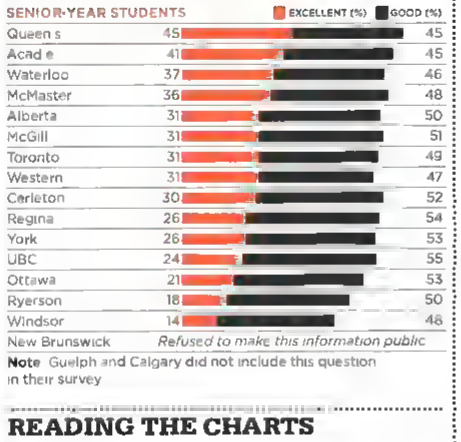
Many Canadian universities taking part in NSSE requested that an additional 10 questions be put to their undergraduates Two questions, featured below, asked students to evaluate the quality of teaching in their first year and senior year courses No comparison to peer American universities is offered, as their surveys did not include these questions

OVERALL, HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE QUALITY OF INSTRUCTION IN THE FIRST- AND SECOND-YEAR COURSES YOU'VE TAKEN AT THIS UNIVERSITY?



Note Guelph and Calgary did not include this question in their survey

OVERALL, HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE QUALITY OF INSTRUCTION IN THE THIRD- AND FOURTH-YEAR COURSES YOU'VE TAKEN AT THIS UNIVERSITY?



Note Guelph and Calgary did not include this question in their survey

READING THE CHARTS

Universities are listed in descending order, according to the percentage of survey participants who choose the highest level of satisfaction when responding, for example, "excellent."

The NSSE and CUSC surveys include hundreds of questions, we have published seven (four from NSSE and three from CUSC) that are the most broad and summative of student attitudes. The *Maclean's* University Graduate Survey asked participants eight questions, for reasons of space, only three ere included here For a full listing of the remaining *Maclean's* University Graduate Survey charts, as well as data from our 2004 grad survey, please visit our website at *www.macleans.ca/university*

Through provincial access to information legislation, *Maclean's* has requested NSSE and CUSC data from universities that have refused to make this information public. *Maclean's* will publish this data when it is released

a split. Among students at small undergraduate universities taking part in CUSC, 28 per cent indicated the highest level of satisfaction—double the percentage at larger research universities Similarly, the percentage saying that they were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with their overall education was almost twice as high among big school students

Last spring, as part of our first annual University Student Issue, *Maclean's* asked all of Canada's ranked universities to take part in the *Maclean's* university graduate survey Twenty-three universities agreed The magazine also asked all universities that had taken part in NSSE and CUSC to make that data public Some agreed to do so Most refused

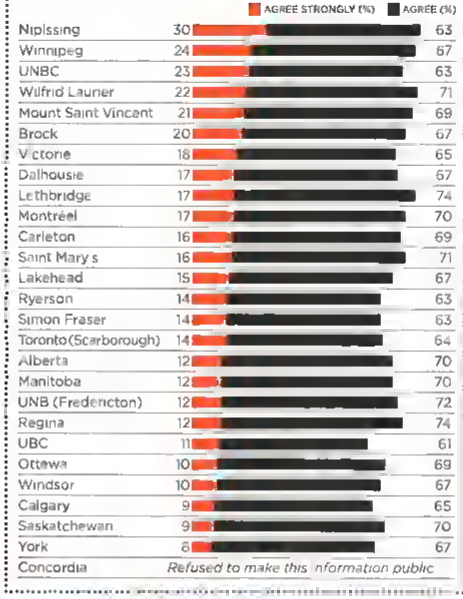
To get NSSE and CUSC data from universities that declined to release it, *Maclean's* filed 22 freedom of information requests in six provinces Provincial freedom of information legislation covers governments and public bodies in most provinces, it is designed to foster transparency and accountability, by making information available to the public Some universities responded favourably to our freedom of information requests, by immediately posting the results on their websites In other cases, the request was denied by the university, leading *Maclean's* to formally appeal to the respective provincial information commission

Just like a court case, a freedom of information request can take months to work its way through the system As a result, the University Student Issue went to press last June without NSSE and/or CUSC results from 12 universities Concordia, Dalhousie, Lakehead, Manitoba, Montreal, Mount Saint Vincent, New Brunswick, Saint Mary's, Saskatchewan, Toronto (Scarborough campus only), Windsor and York. In the University Student issue, *Maclean's* promised that

CANADIAN UNDERGRADUATE SURVEY CONSORTIUM (CUSC)

In the 2005 CUSC questionnaire, 12,783 undergraduates took the opportunity to state their opinion on important aspects of the learning environment, including quality of teaching

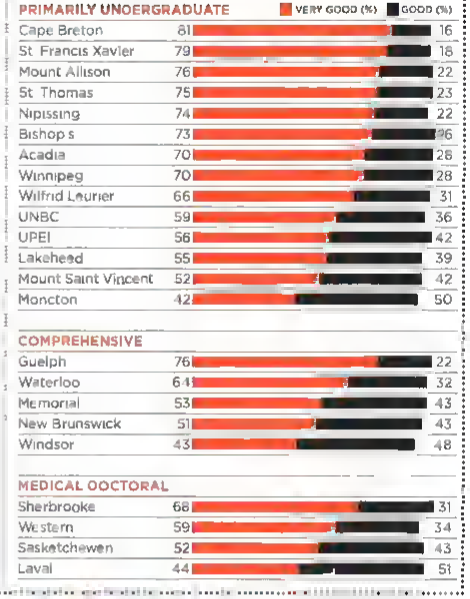
GENERALLY, I AM SATISFIED WITH THE QUALITY OF TEACHING I HAVE RECEIVED.



MACLEAN'S UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SURVEY

Twenty three universities took part in the 2006 *Maclean's* University Graduate Survey, but 24 declined, including six in the Comprehensive category and 11 in the Medical Doctoral

HOW WOULD YOU RATE YOUR ENTIRE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE AT THIS UNIVERSITY?



PHOTOGRAPHY BY R CK COLLINS

UBC It's a top-ranked school, but its students give it less than stellar marks

we would pursue our freedom of information requests, and publish complete information on all missing schools in an upcoming report and now, here it is

Forty two of Canada's 47 ranked universities are covered Three of the missing institutions did not take part in any of the surveys Trent, Brandon and Laurentian Two others—Concordia and the University of New Brunswick—did take part, but have so far refused to make their information public As we went to press, our freedom of information request for Concordia is still making its way through the legal process *Maclean's* was unable to file a freedom of information request in New Brunswick, as it is one of the few provinces whose information and privacy legislation does not cover universities

The questions published by *Maclean's* are just one aspect of what the questionnaires ask about the undergraduate experience—inside the classroom and beyond The three surveys are similar, but not perfectly com-

MACLEAN'S UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SURVEY

Maclean's survey results are grouped according to categories from *Maclean's* annual university rankings. Medical-Doctoral institutions offer undergrad education and significant graduate programs and research, including medical schools, Comprehensives offer a range of undergrad and grad programs; Primarily Undergraduate institutions focus on undergrad education

WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THIS UNIVERSITY TO A FRIEND OR RELATIVE INTERESTED IN A SIMILAR COURSE OF STUDIES?

	DEFINITELY YES (%)	PROBABLY YES (%)
PRIMARILY UNDERGRADUATE		
Nipissing	85	11
St. Francis Xavier	85	10
Cape Breton	83	13
St. Thomas	80	16
Winnipeg	80	16
Bishop's	78	16
Wilfrid Laurier	78	17
Mount Allison	73	18
Acadia	72	19
UNBC	72	21
UPEI	67	27
Lakehead	63	27
Mount Saint Vincent	63	26
Moncton	54	30
COMPREHENSIVE		
Guelph	83	14
Waterloo	77	17
Memorial	66	27
New Brunswick	62	28
Windsor	55	33
MEDICAL DOCTORAL		
Sherbrooke	81	16
Saskatchewan	67	23
Western	66	23
Laval	51	36

THINKING BACK ON YOUR TIME AT UNIVERSITY, DO YOU FEEL THAT THIS EXPERIENCE WAS OF SIGNIFICANT BENEFIT TO YOUR LIFE TODAY?

	DEFINITELY YES (%)	PROBABLY YES (%)
PRIMARILY UNDERGRADUATE		
St. Francis Xavier	86	10
Bishop's	84	13
Cape Breton	83	13
Mount Allison	82	15
Nipissing	81	15
Acadia	78	17
Wilfrid Laurier	78	18
St. Thomas	77	17
Winnipeg	77	18
Lakehead	76	18
UNBC	76	18
UPEI	73	20
Moncton	70	23
Mount Saint Vincent	69	23
COMPREHENSIVE		
Guelph	82	14
Waterloo	81	15
Memorial	74	20
New Brunswick	71	23
Windsor	69	23
MEDICAL DOCTORAL		
Sherbrooke	80	17
Saskatchewan	78	18
Western	74	18
Laval	67	27

I'M SATISIFIED, ARE YOU? Working with Holstein cows in the U of A's dairy barn

PHOTOGRAPH BY JASON SCOTT/EPIC PHOTOGRAPHY

parable, they polled different groups, at different times, at different schools. Even the surveys' purposes are slightly different.

Most of the questions asked on the NSSE survey attempt to find out how students are spending their time and how "engaged" they are with their schools, their professors and their peers. It is largely about asking students what they did—not how they felt about it. CUSC similarly looks at detailed aspects of the student experience, thought it does ask students to not merely say what they did, but to assess how satisfied they were, and where they would like to see improvement. The *Maclean's* survey is a shorter survey, asking grads to evaluate their university by answering a series of broad, summative questions.

The surveys are not exactly the same, but there are several questions on NSSE, CUSC and the *Maclean's* survey that are broadly similar, asking survey-takers to assess their university experience. Those questions, and their answers, are presented here. M

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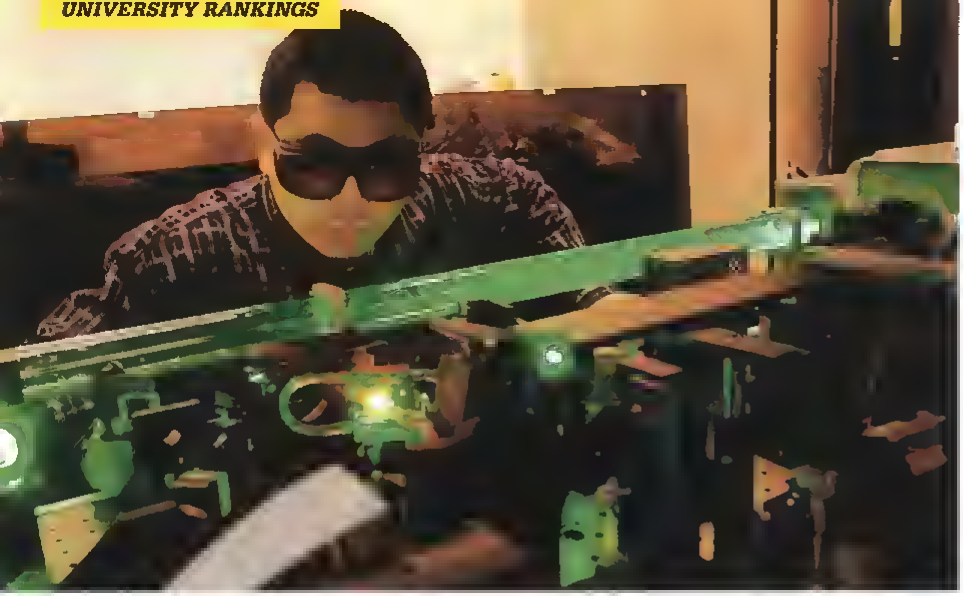

PHYSICS PH.D. STUDENT Jianbo Gao uses a laser in the University of Alberta's Ultrafast Spectroscopy Lab

SURVEYING THE PROFESSIONALS

The reputational survey seeks opinions on university performance

BY MARY DWYER • While statistics are an important part of evaluating a university, they tell only part of the story. What do people in the know really think about how universities are doing? Just as surveys of students and recent graduates provide an important piece of the picture, so too does the opinion of those whose professions put them in a position to form opinions about how well universities are meeting the needs of students and producing graduates ready to embark on successful careers.

To find out what the professionals think about the state of post-secondary education in Canada, *Maclean's* solicited the opinion of 11,430 individuals across the country, asking for their views on quality, innovation and leadership at Canadian universities. Those surveyed included university officials at each ranked institution, high school principals and guidance counsellors from every province and territory, the heads of a wide variety of national and regional organizations, plus CEOs and recruiters at corporations large and small.

Respondents were asked to rate the universities in three categories: Highest Quality, Most innovative, and Leaders of Tomorrow. Best Overall represents the sum of the scores for the three categories. The survey form reminds participants that *Maclean's* does not expect them to be familiar with every university, or even most, but that we are asking them to provide their views on those universities about which they have an informed opinion.

The reputational survey has a regional as well as a national component that divides the country into four key areas: the Western provinces, Ontario, Quebec and the Atlantic provinces. All respondents completed a national survey, university officials, principals and guidance counsellors also completed regional ones, allowing them the opportunity to focus on the region they know best. The national and regional surveys are combined to produce the final results.

The reputational survey achieved an overall response rate of 10.2 per cent. Broken out by groups, the response rates were 34.5 per cent for university officials, 7.2 per cent for high school principals and guidance counsellors, 7.9 per cent for CEOs, corporate recruiters and heads of organizations.

WATERLOO STUDENTS take a break; balancing act on campus at McGill

PHOTOGRAPH BY JASON SCOTT/ERIC PHOTOGRAPHY (TOP); PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM SRIMSHAW (LEFT); PHOTOGRAPH BY LIAM MALONEY

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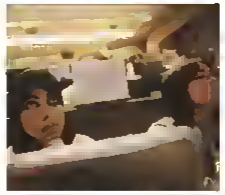
HURON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE at WESTERN

As part of The University of Western Ontario, Huron University College is not ranked independently in the Maclean's University Ranking issue. Our high marks reflect an independent study conducted with our 2005 graduating students.



CLASS at Queen's University

National Reputational Ranking

Maclean's surveyed high school principals and guidance counsellors, university officials, heads of organizations, as well as CEOs and recruiters at corporations across the country, asking for their views on quality and innovation at Canadian universities. This chart displays the results of the reputational ranking combining all the universities from the primarily undergraduate, comprehensive and medical doctoral categories into one group.

BEST OVERALL	HIGHEST QUALITY	MOST INNOVATIVE	LEADERS OF TOMORROW
1 Alberta	1 McGill	1 Waterloo	1 Alberta
2 Waterloo	2 Queen's	2 McMaster	2 Waterloo
3 McGill	3 Waterloo	3 Alberta	3 McGill
4 UBC	4 Toronto	4 UBC	4 UBC
5 Toronto	5 Alberta	5 McGill	5 Toronto
6 McMaster	6 UBC	6 Toronto	6 McMaster
7 Queen's	7 McMaster	7 Queen's	7 Queen's
8 Guelph	8 Western	8 Sherbrooke	8 Guelph
9 Sherbrooke	9 Guelph	9 Guelph	9 Calgary
10 Western	10 Victoria	10 Simon Fraser	10 Sherbrooke
11 Calgary	11 Dalhousie	11 Western	11 Ryerson
12 Victoria	12 St. Francis Xavier	12 Victoria	12 Saskatchewan
13 Simon Fraser	13 Simon Fraser	13 Acadia	13 Laval
14 Dalhousie	14 Montréal	14 Calgary	14 Simon Fraser
15 Acadia	15 Acadia	15 Montréal	15 Western
16 Saskatchewan	16 Sherbrooke	16 St. Francis Xavier	16 Victoria
17 St. Francis Xavier	17 Mount Allison	17 Saskatchewan	17 Acadia
18 Montréal	18 Saskatchewan	18 Dalhousie	18 Ottawa
19 Ryerson	19 Laval	19 Ryerson	19 Dalhousie
20 Laval	20 Wilfrid Laurier	20 Memorial	20 Memorial
21 Memorial	21 Calgary	21 Laval	21 St. Francis Xavier
22 Wilfrid Laurier	22 Memorial	22 Wilfrid Laurier	22 York
23 Ottawa	23 Ottawa	23 York	23 Montréal
24 Mount Allison	24 Ryerson	24 Concordia	24 Wilfrid Laurier
25 York	25 New Brunswick	25 Ottawa	25 Concordia
26 New Brunswick	26 York	26 Mount Allison	26 New Brunswick
27 Concordia	27 Lethbridge	27 New Brunswick	27 Lethbridge
28 Lethbridge	28 Manitoba	28 Lethbridge	28 Winnipeg
29 Manitoba	29 Concordia	29 Manitoba	29 Manitoba
30 Saint Mary's	30 Saint Mary's	30 Saint Mary's	30 Mount Allison
31 Winnipeg	31 St. Thomas	31 Trent	31 UNBC
32 Carleton	32 Carleton	32 Carleton	32 Windsor
33 Trent	33 Winnipeg	33 UNBC	33 Lakehead
34 Brock	34 Trent	34 UPEI	34 Nipissing
35 St. Thomas	35 Brock	35 Brock	35 Laurentian
36 UNBC	36 Regina	36 Winnipeg	36 Trent
37 UPEI	37 Bishop's	37 St. Thomas	37 Regina
38 Regina	38 Mount Saint Vincent	38 Regina	38 Brock
39 Mount Saint Vincent	39 UPEI	39 Mount Saint Vincent	39 Saint Mary's
40 Bishop's	40 UNBC	40 Windsor	40 Cape Breton
41 Windsor	41 Windsor	41 Lakehead	41 Carleton
42 Lakehead	42 Moncton	42 Cape Breton	42 St. Thomas
43 Laurentian	43 Laurentian	43 Laurentian	43 UPEI
44 Moncton	44 Lakehead	44 Moncton	44 Bishop's
45 Cape Breton	45 Brandon	45 Bishop's	45 Moncton
46 Nipissing	46 Nipissing	46 Nipissing	46 Brandon
47 Brandon	47 Cape Breton	47 Brandon	47 Mount Saint Vincent

Indicates a tie. Full description of the methodology, page 74

PHOTOGRAPH BY SIMON HAYTER

OUR 16TH ANNUAL RANKINGS

We evaluated 47 Canadian universities, by the numbers and under the microscope

BY MARY DWYER • Now in its 16th year, the annual *Maclean's* rankings assess Canadian universities on a diverse range of factors from class sizes and average entering grades to spending, library volumes and faculty success in obtaining national research grants. The focus is on the undergraduate experience, and the intent is to offer an overview of the quality of instruction and services available to students at public universities across the country.

Maclean's places universities in one of three categories, recognizing the difference in levels of research funding, the diversity of offerings, and the range of graduate and professional programs. Primarily Undergraduate universities are largely focused on undergraduate education, with relatively few graduate programs. Those in the Comprehensive category have a significant amount of research activity and a wide range of programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels, including professional degrees. Medical-Doctoral universities offer a broad range of Ph.D. programs and research. In addition, all universities in this category have medical schools, which sets them apart in terms of the size of research grants.

In each category, *Maclean's* ranks the institutions on a range of factors—or performance indicators—in six broad areas (weightings are in parentheses). In total, Primarily Undergraduate universities are ranked on 22 performance measures, Comprehensive universities on 23 and Medical-Doctoral universities on 24. In reporting to *Maclean's*, universities include data from all federated and affiliated institutions. The magazine does not rank schools with fewer than 1,000 full-time students or those that are restrictive due to a religious or specialized mission.

The ranking process begins in the spring when a detailed questionnaire is circulated to the universities. At the same time, *Maclean's* collects information on dozens of student and faculty awards from 45 administering agencies. Thousands of reputational surveys are also sent to high school principals and guidance counsellors, university officials, heads of organizations, CEOs and corporate recruiters across the country, asking for their views on quality and innovation at Canadian universities.

This year, the rankings were marked with controversy as 26 universities refused to make public performance indicators that they had released, as a matter of course, for the past 15 years. On Aug. 14—two weeks before the deadline for submitting completed surveys—11 universities informed *Maclean's* that they would not do so, citing concerns about the ranking methodology and some of the measures used, and claiming that over the years these concerns had "gone largely unaddressed." Fifteen other universities shortly followed suit. The rankings have always been contentious, however, since they place universities under the microscope. During the mid-1990s, a number of universities boycotted the exercise.

From its inception, *Maclean's* has consulted with academic experts about the design, composition and methodology of the rankings. After the inaugural rankings were released in 1991, *Maclean's* responded to criticism from the university community by overhauling the survey. For several months in 1992, editors met with educational experts and representatives, including university presidents, institutional analysts and such organizations as the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada and its regional counterparts, asking them for input on what factors to consider when assessing how well a university is doing its job. New indicators were developed and the universities were divided into the three peer-grouped categories. Over the next several years, *Maclean's* continued to respond to concerns and suggestions from the post-secondary sector by adding three new indicators—total library holdings, international first-year students and retention rate—as well as significantly revising the class size indicators. Guidelines were refined, definitions were expanded, and the reputational survey increased the range and number of groups canvassed while boosting regional representation. *Maclean's* continues the mandate it established 16 years ago: to provide basic, essential information in a comprehensive package to help students choose the university that best suits their needs.

In calculating the rankings this year, universities that completed a questionnaire were processed with data being collated and checked in the usual manner. For universities that refused to complete a questionnaire, *Maclean's* obtained public data wherever possible for the most recently available fiscal year. For the two research grant indicators, data for the fiscal year 2005-2006 was received directly from the three major federal granting agencies: the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Statistics Canada data was used for the five financial indicators—operating budget, spending on student services, scholarships and bursaries, library expenses and acquisitions. The Canadian Association of Research Libraries and its regional counterparts provided figures used for the library holdings indicators. All financial and library figures are for fiscal year 2004-2005. As in previous years, *Maclean's* conducted the reputational survey, and collected student and faculty awards for all universities. Any outstanding data for non-participating universities was taken from last year's questionnaires.

ENJOYING THE VIEW McGill students take a moment to chat and relax on their leafy downtown campus

PHOTOGRAPH BY RACHEL GRANOFSKY

PHOTOGRAPH BY SIMON HAYTER (LEFT)
PHOTOGRAPH BY DONALD WEBER

QUEEN'S WOMEN'S RUGBY team, fencing practice for an upcoming production of *Hamlet* at U of T

Medical Doctoral ranking

The *Maclean's* ranking takes a measure of the undergraduate experience, comparing universities in three peer groupings. Those in the Medical-Doctoral category have a broad range of Ph.D. programs and research, as well as medical schools.

OVERALL RANKING		STUDENT BODY								CLASSES			FACULTY				FINANCES			LIBRARY				REPUTATION	
	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE ENTERING GRADE	PROPORTION WITH 75% OR HIGHER	STUDENT RETENTION	PROPORTION WHO GRADUATE	OUT OF PROVINCE (1ST YEAR)	INTERNATIONAL (1ST YEAR)	INTERNATIONAL (GRADUATE)	STUDENT AWARDS	CLASS SIZES, 1ST AND 2ND YEAR LEVEL	CLASS SIZES 3RD AND 4TH YEAR LEVEL	CLASSES TAUGHT BY TENURED FACULTY	FACULTY WITH Ph.D.'S	AWARDS PER FULL-TIME FACULTY	SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES GRANTS	MEDICAL/ SCIENCE GRANTS	OPERATING BUDGET	SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES (PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET)	STUDENT SERVICES (PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET)	TOTAL HOLDINGS	HOLDINGS PER STUDENT	ACQUISITIONS	EXPENSES	ALUMNI SUPPORT	REPUTATIONAL SURVEY
1 McGill	(1*)	1	1*	8	2	2	1	5	1	12	4	14	11	4	1	2	7	1	1	6*	8	8	3	3	2
2 Queen's	(5)	4*	1*	1	4*	3	11	2	2	13	12	6	7	1	10	6	2	5	9	4	1	5	12	5	6
3 Toronto	(1*)	10	11	3*	6	9	4	14	4	14	13	4	5	2	5	1	4	3	10	1	5	9	1	1	4
4 UBC	(4)	2	6	10	11	5	5	4	3	9*	14	13	1*	3	2	3*	6	12	13	3	4	12	9*	13*	3
5 Western	(3)	3	4	2	1	11	9	7	13	4*	2*	2	4	13	8	10	11	4	7	5	9	6	9*	2	8
6 Alberta	(6)	8	10	12	13	7	12	3	5	11	11	9	1*	5	6	9	3	6	14	2	2	13	5	8	1
7 Sherbrooke	(9)	7	5	3*	12	13	14	15	14	1	2*	3	12	14	11	12	15	2	3	15	14	7	14	4	7
8 Laval	(8)	9	8	5	15	15	3	13	10	2	9	1	8	9*	8	8	14	9	2	8	6	2	7	15	13
9 Montréal	(7)	4*	7	9	3	12	2	11	8	3	7	7	10	6	4	5	9	11	12	10	15	15	11	9	12
10 Saskatchewan	(10)	4*	12	15	10	10	15	1	15	4*	1	12	14	9*	13	13	1	14	8	9	3	3	4	10	11
11 Ottawa	(12)	15	14	7	4*	4	6	8	11	6	10	5	3	7	3	3*	13	10	5	11	11	1	8	11	14
12 McMaster	(11)	13	3	6	9	14	8	6	7	15	15	8	8	8	7	7	10	7	6	12	12	4	15	13*	5
13 Calgary	(14)	12	13	11	14	6	13	9*	9	9*	8	10	13	12	14	11	5	13	11	6*	7	10	6	6	9
14 Dalhousie	(13)	11	9	13	8	1	7	9*	6	7	6	11	15	9*	15	15	8	8	15	14	10	11	13	7	10
15 Manitoba	(15)	14	15	14	7	8	10	12	12	8	5	15	6	15	12	14	12	15	4	13	13	14	2	12	15

*Indicates a tie

VIEW FROM THE FRONT OF THE CLASS University of Guelph professor Ian Spears delivers a political science lecture

The 26 universities that did not complete a ranking questionnaire this year are: University of Alberta, Brandon University, University of British Columbia, Brock University, University of Calgary, Carleton University, Concordia University, Dalhousie University, Lakehead University, Laurentian University, University of Lethbridge, the University of Manitoba, McMaster University, Université de Moncton, Université de Montréal, University of New Brunswick, Nipissing University, University of Ottawa, Queen's University, Ryerson University, Simon Fraser University, University of Toronto, Trent University, the University of Western Ontario, University of Windsor and York University.

STUDENT BODY (22% to 23% of final score) Students are enriched by the calibre of their peers. For that reason, *Maclean's* collects incoming students' average high school grades (11%), and the proportion of those with averages of 75 per cent or higher (2%). This count includes only those students whose secondary school averages or CEGEP scores served as the basis of admission. No conversion formula is applied to incoming grade averages to adjust for provincial differences or varying admission policies, although CEGEP grades are converted from an R score to a percentage grade. As well, it should be noted that certain universities, to enhance accessibility, accept students with lower grades.

As a measure of drawing power, we count the proportion of out-of-province students in the first-year undergraduate class (1.5%). The percentage of international students in the first-year undergraduate class (0.5%) is measured as well, acknowledging the benefits such diversity brings to the classroom. The percentage of international students at the graduate level (1%) is also measured for Comprehensive and Medical-Doctoral universities.

In taking stock of retention rates (2%), *Maclean's* asks for the percentage of first-year students who return in second year, either full-time or part-time. While many factors can affect a student's choice not to return—personal considerations, or a decision to transfer to a program unavailable at their home university—student retention, on the whole, reflects a university's success in keeping its students on course. *Maclean's* also measures graduation rates (2%), the percentage of full-time undergraduates in their second year who go on to graduate from the institution within one year of the expected time period.

In addition, *Maclean's* collects data on the success of the student body at winning national academic awards (3%) over a five-year

Comprehensive ranking

The *Maclean's* ranking takes a measure of the undergraduate experience, comparing universities in three peer groupings. Those in the Comprehensive category have a significant amount of research activity and a wide range of programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels, including professional degrees.

WEIGHTINGS OF INDICATORS

Maclean's ranks universities on 22, 23 or 24 performance measures, according to peer grouping, and then allocates the appropriate weights to those measures.

STUDENT BODY	**22% TO 23%**
Average Entering Grade	11%
Proportion with 75% or Higher	2%
Student Retention	2%
Proportion Who Graduate	2%
Out of Province (1st Year)	1.5%
International (1st Year)	0.5%
International (Graduate)*	1%
Student Awards	3%
CLASSES	**17% TO 18%**
Class Sizes: 1st and 2nd Year Level	7% to 7.5%
Class Sizes: 3rd and 4th Year Level	7% to 7.5%
Classes Taught by Tenured Faculty	3%
FACULTY	**17%**
Faculty with Ph.D.s	3%
Awards per Full-time Faculty	3%
Social Sciences and Humanities Grants	5.5%
Medical/Science Grants	5.5%
FINANCES	**12%**
Operating Budget	3.3%
Scholarships & Bursaries	4.3%
Student Services	4.3%
LIBRARY	**12%**
Total Library Holdings†	1%
Holdings per Student	3% to 4%
Acquisitions	4%
Expenses	4%
REPUTATION	**19%**
Alumni Support	3%
Reputational Survey	16%

*Comprehensive and Medical-Doctoral categories only
†Medical-Doctoral category only

PHOTOGRAPH BY DARREN STONE (TOP); PHOTOGRAPH BY TOBIN GRIMSHAW

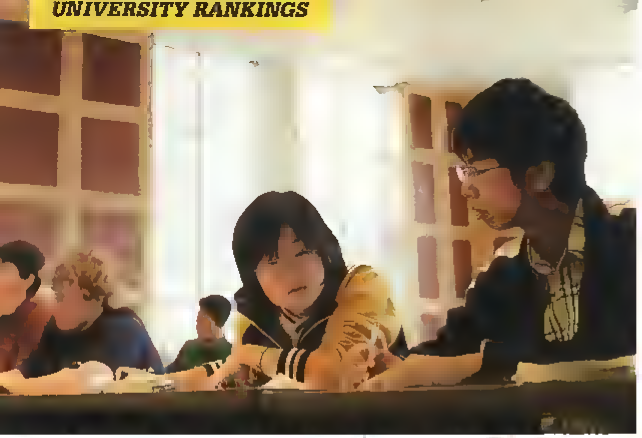
PHOTOGRAPH BY TOBIN GRIMSHAW

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA drama students embrace their subject with passion

CYCLING BY THE WILLIAM G. DAVIS CENTRE at the University of Waterloo

OVERALL RANKING		STUDENT BODY								CLASSES				FACULTY			FINANCES			LIBRARY			REPUTATION	
	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE ENTERING GRADE	PROPORTION WITH 75% OR HIGHER	STUDENT RETENTION	PROPORTION WHO GRADUATE	OUT OF PROVINCE (1ST YEAR)	INTERNATIONAL (1ST YEAR)	INTERNATIONAL (GRADUATE)	STUDENT AWARDS	CLASS SIZES, 1ST AND 2ND YEAR LEVEL	CLASS SIZES 3RD AND 4TH YEAR LEVEL	CLASSES TAUGHT BY TENURED FACULTY	FACULTY WITH PH.D.'S	AWARDS PER FULL TIME FACULTY	SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES GRANTS	MEDICAL/ SCIENCE GRANTS	OPERATING BUDGET	SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES (PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET)	STUDENT SERVICES (PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET)	HOLDINGS PER STUDENT	ACQUISITIONS	EXPENSES	ALUMNI SUPPORT	REPUTATIONAL SURVEY
1 Guelph	(3*)	5	1	2	1	9	11	6	5	2	4	1	1	6	2	3	6	5	1	5	3	7	2	2
2 Waterloo	(1)	3	4	3	3	6	4*	3	1	6	11	2	2	2	4	4	4	1	2	9	6	6	1	1
3 Victoria	(2)	2	2	7*	4	4	6	6	4	7	5	4	4	4	5	1	1	4	7	3	6	4	4*	3
4 Simon Fraser	(3*)	1	3	6	2	7	3	10	2	10	9	9	6	1	1	2	2	6	5	11	1	5	4*	4
5 Memorial	(5)	10	10	10	11	2	7	5	9	1	2	6	6	7	11	11	5	9	6	1	5	1	7	5
6 Regina	(8)	4	7	11	7*	8	6	2	10	3	1	10	11	10	7	10	3	7	8	4	4	3	11	10
7 New Brunswick	(7)	6	6	5*	6	3	6*	4	6	4	3	6	9	6	6	9	7	10	9	2	10	2	6	7
8 Concordia	(8*)	6	5	7*	10	1	2	7	8	5	6	7	10	11	3	5	10	11	11	7	11	10	6	6
9 York	(10)	6	6	4	5	10	9*	11	7	11	6	5	7	3	9	6	6	3	3	10	7	11	10	6
10 Windsor	(11)	11	11	1	7*	11	1	1	11	9	7	3	3	5	10	6	11	6	4	6	2	6	3	11
11 Carleton	(6*)	7	8	5*	9	5	4*	9	3	8	10	11	5	5	6	7	8	2	10	8	6	6	6	9

*Indicates a tie



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER STUDENTS compare notes in a second-year physics class

period. The list of roughly 40 fellowships and prizes includes such prestigious awards as the Rhodes Scholarships, the Fulbright Awards, as well as scholarships from professional associations and the three federal granting agencies.

CLASSES (17% to 18%) The rankings take stock of the entire distribution of class sizes at the first- and second-year levels (7.5% for Primarily Undergraduate universities, 7% for the other two categories), as well as the third- and fourth-year levels (7.5% for the Primarily Undergraduate category, 7% for the others). *Maclean's* measures the percentage of students in classes in each of the following class size ranges: 1 to 25, 26 to 50, 51 to 100, 101 to 250, 251 to 500, 501 and higher.

Maclean's also ranks universities on the percentage of first-year classes taught by tenured and tenure-track professors (3%).

FACULTY (17%) In assessing the calibre of faculty, *Maclean's* calculates the percentage of faculty with Ph.D.'s (3%), and the number who win national awards, including the distinguished Killam, Molson and Steacie prizes, the Royal Society of Canada awards, the 3M Teaching Fellowships and almost 40 others (3%). In addition, the magazine measures the success of eligible faculty in securing research grants from each of the three major federal granting agencies: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. *Maclean's* takes into account both the number and the dollar value received last year. Social sciences and humanities grants (5.5%) and medical/science grants (5.5%) were tallied as separate indicators.

FINANCES (12%) This section examines the amount of money available for current expenses per weighted full-time-equivalent student (3.3%), as well as the percentage of the budget spent on student services (4.3%) and scholarships and bursaries (4.3%). Funds used to pay off debt are excluded from the analysis.

LIBRARY (12%) This section assesses the breadth and currency of the collection. Universities received points for the number of volumes and volume equivalents per number of full-time-equivalent students (4% for Primarily Undergraduate and Comprehensive, 3% for Medical-Doctoral). The total holdings measurement was used in the Medical-Doctoral category (1%), acknowledging the importance of extensive on-campus collections in those universities.

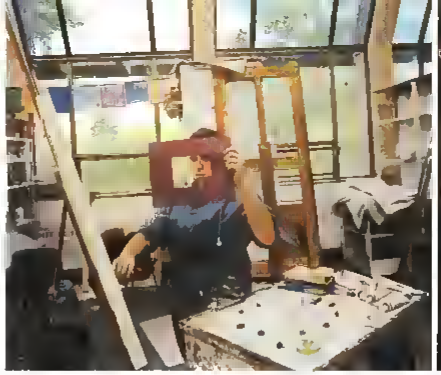
As well, *Maclean's* measured the percentage of a university's operating budget that was allocated to library services (4%) and the percentage of the library budget spent on updating the collection (4%). In acknowledging a shift from the traditional library model—books on shelves—to an electronic access model, *Maclean's* captures spending on electronic resources in both the library expenses and acquisitions measurements.

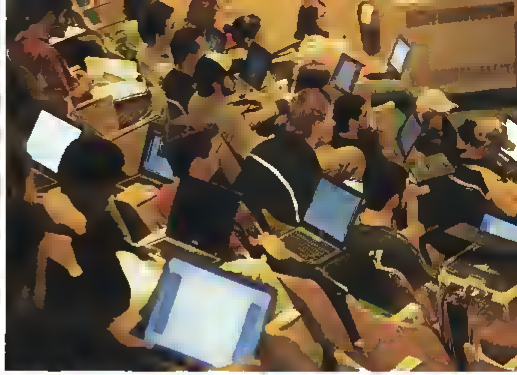
REPUTATION (19%) This section reflects a university's reputation in the community at large, as well as with its own graduates. For the reputational survey (16%), respondents rated the universities in three categories: Highest Quality, Most Innovative and Leaders of Tomorrow. Best Overall represents the sum of the scores.

When looking at alumni support, institutions received points for the percentage of alumni giving gifts—rather than the total value of gifts—over the past five years (3%). M

NEW ON THE WEB Customize your own ranking using the new Personalized University Ranking Tool at *www.macleans.ca/university*. Choose your own weights and criteria from our exclusive database of 24 indicators.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JANET BELLIVEAU (LEFT) PHOTOGRAPH BY DONALD WEBER





A MOUNT ALLISON student checks her perspective in a fine arts class, laptops poised, first-year Acadia students take in a lecture

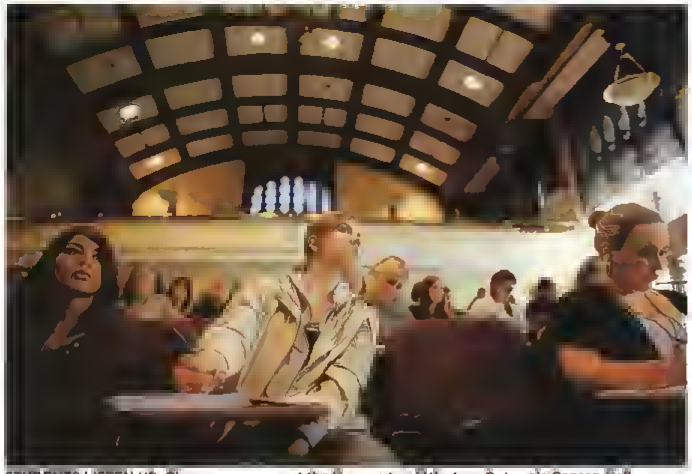
PHOTOGRAPH BY DONALD WEBER

Primarily Undergraduate ranking

The *Maclean's* ranking takes a measure of the undergraduate experience, comparing universities in three peer groupings. Those in the Primarily Undergraduate category are largely focused on undergraduate education, with relatively few graduate programs.

		OVERALL RANKING	STUDENT BODY						CLASSES				FACULTY			FINANCES			LIBRARY			REPUTATION	
		LAST YEAR	AVERAGE ENTERING GRADE	PROPORTION WITH 75% OR BIGGER	STUDENT RETENTION	PROPORTION WHO GRADUATE	OUT OF PROVINCE (1ST YEAR)	INTERNATIONAL (1ST YEAR)	STUDENT AWARDS	CLASS SIZES, 1ST AND 2ND YEAR LEVEL	CLASS SIZES 3RD AND 4TH YEAR LEVEL	CLASSES TAUGHT BY TENURED/TT FACULTY	FACULTY WITH PH.D.'S	AWARDS PER FULL-TIME FACULTY	SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES GRANTS	MEDICAL/SCIENCE GRANTS	OPERATING BUDGET	SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES (PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET)	STUDENT SERVICES (PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET)	HOLDINGS PER STUDENT	ACQUISITIONS	EXPENSES	ALUMNI SUPPORT	REPUTATIONAL SURVEY
1	St. Francis Xavier	(1)	1	2	9	16	3	14	6	10	6	5	7	12	6	3	6	8	4	9	8	11	1	2
2	Mount Allison	(2)	2	1	12	18	1	7	1	17	4	7	5	2	12	5	1	7	9	1	18	2	3	5
3	Acadia	(3)	5	6	14	2	5	1	2	9	10	11	9	10	14	12	5	9	8	4	9	6	13	1
4	UNBC	(4)	8	12	20	14	15*	21	5	4	8	16	4	14	2	14	2	16	6	10	2	4	17	12
5	UPEI	(8*)	11	15	13	8	9	16*	4	11	11*	4	10	1	3	10	3	10	12	6	10	18*	11	13
6	Wilfrid Laurier	(10)	9	5	5	4	19*	19*	16	20	18	17	3	6*	5	11	20	4	7	16	3	7	8	4
7	Bishop's	(5)	3	3	8	10	2	4	14	2*	5	20	18	19*	21	16	4	14	1	8	15	1	5	15
8	St. Thomas	(6)	6	4	18	15	6	11	21	6	14	18	1	19*	7	N/A	10	6	3	7	16	14	7	11
9	Saint Mary's	(7)	12	13	2	1	4	2	7*	18	20	3	2	16	4	7	9	13	10	15	5	9*	2	7
10	Trent	(8*)	20	20	1	13	13	9	7*	7*	11*	2	8	3	8	2	12	1	11	17	17	16	9	9
11	Mount Saint Vincent	(12)	10	10	17	6	10	13	17*	2*	2	12	13	4*	1	20	15	15	16	3	6	21	6	14
12	Winnipeg	(11)	7	8	16	21	14	10	3	12	15*	21	16	17*	10	13	14	17	2	19	12	5	4	8
13	Cape Breton	(20)	4	7	11	12	12	3	17*	1	3	1	21	19*	13	18	19	20	5	11	21	17	10	19
14	Lethbridge	(13)	15	16	19	9	7	5	12*	14*	15*	9	14	9	16	1	8	19	21	13	14	12	20	6
15	Lakehead	(16*)	21	21	4	3	15*	18	10	14*	18	6	6	17*	9	6	16	3	18	12	1	13	12	16
*16	Laurentian	(19)	17	17	6	17	18	6	9	13	13	10	12	11	20	8	11	2	17	14	4	9*	21	17
*16	Ryerson	(18)	14	9	3	5	15*	8	20	19	21	13	20	13	19	9	18	11*	19	21	13	18*	18	3
18	Moncton	(15)	18	18	15	19	11	12	12*	5	7	15	19	15	11	15	7	18	15	5	7	8	14	18
19	Brock	(14)	13	11	7	11	19*	16*	15	21	17	14	11	6*	15	4	21	5	20	20	11	15	15	10
20	Brandon	(16*)	19	19	21	20	8	15	11	7*	1	8	17	4*	17	19	13	21	13	2	20	3	19	21
21	Nipissing	(21)	16	14	10	7	21	19*	17*	16	9	19	15	8	18	17	17	11*	14	18	19	20	16	20

*indicates a tie



STUDENTS LISTEN UP: Class is in session at the University of Western Ontario's Conron Hall

Student Body

The quality and dedication of students have an enormous impact on the learning environment. Maclean's takes two measures of entering grades, and calculates the proportion of first-year students who return for a second year—full- or part-time. Other measures include the proportion of students graduating within a reasonable time, the success of the student body at winning national awards, and the university's ability to draw students from outside its province, and around the world.

CHEERLEADERS PRACTISE their form at the University of British Columbia

AVERAGE ENTERING GRADE

Students are enriched by the calibre of their peers. Here are the average final year grades of first year students entering from high school or Quebec's CEGEP system.

		GRADE
1	McGill	88.9%
2	UBC	88.3%
3	Western	87.9%
*4	Montréal	87.6%
*4	Queen's	87.6%
*4	Saskatchewan	87.6%
7	Sherbrooke	86.8%
8	Alberta	86.2%
9	Laval	86.1%
10	St. Francis Xavier	85.9%
11	Simon Fraser	85.5%
12	Toronto	85.1%
13	Mount Allison	84.9%
14	Bishop's	84.8%
15	Dalhousie	84.6%
16	Victoria	84.4%
*17	Calgary	84%
*17	Waterloo	84%
*19	McMaster	83.7%
*19	Regina	83.7%
21	Cape Breton	83.6%
22	Acadia	83.5%
23	Manitoba	83.1%
24	Ottawa	83%
25	St. Thomas	82.9%
26	Guelph	82.7%
27	Winnipeg	82.5%
28	Concordia	82.4%
29	Carleton	81.9%
*30	New Brunswick	81.8%
*30	UNBC	81.8%
32	Wilfrid Laurier	81.4%
33	Mount Saint Vincent	81.3%
34	UPEI	81.1%
35	York	81%
36	Memorial	80.4%
37	Saint Mary's	80.1%
38	Brock	80%
39	Ryerson	79.9%
40	Lethbridge	79.7%
41	Nipissing	79.4%
42	Laurentian	79%
*43	Moncton	78.5%
*43	Windsor	78.5%
45	Brandon	78.3%
46	Trent	77.8%
47	Lakehead	77.1%

*indicates a tie

Full description of the methodology page 74

PHOTOGRAPH BY SIMON HAYTER (TOP); PHOTOGRAPH BY RICK COLLINS

PROPORTION WITH 75% OR HIGHER

Maclean's calculates the percentage of first-year students arriving from high school or CEGEP with averages of 75 per cent or higher.

		PER CENT
*1	McGill	100
*1	Queen's	100
3	McMaster	99.97
4	Western	99.96
5	Sherbrooke	99.71
6	UBC	99.6
7	Guelph	99.33
8	Montréal	99.2
9	Laval	98.95
10	Mount Allison	98.17
11	Dalhousie	97.26
*12	Alberta	97.18
*12	Victoria	97.18
14	Toronto	96.34
15	Simon Fraser	96.13
16	Saskatchewan	95.69
17	Calgary	95.53
18	St. Francis Xavier	95.18
19	Waterloo	94.61
20	Bishop's	89.66
21	Concordia	89.19
22	Ottawa	88.3
23	Carleton	86.03
24	St. Thomas	85.69
25	Wilfrid Laurier	85.27
26	Acadia	84.84
27	Cape Breton	84.15
28	Winnipeg	83.63
29	Manitoba	83.48
30	Regina	83.46
31	Ryerson	81.57
32	York	81.45
33	New Brunswick	80.57
34	Mount Saint Vincent	79.84
35	Brock	79.33
36	UNBC	79.19
37	Saint Mary's	77.77
38	Nipissing	77.09
39	UPEI	75.65
40	Memorial	75.44
41	Lethbridge	73.43
42	Laurentian	68.72
43	Moncton	66.04
44	Brandon	65.04
45	Windsor	64.91
46	Trent	61.2
47	Lakehead	59.43

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

While the *Maclean's* ranking takes account of the average entering grade of first-year students arriving from high school or CÉGEP, the average tells only part of the story. What percentage of those students entered with grades within each of the following ranges?

	LESS THAN 65%	65-69.9%	70-74.9%	75-79.9%	80-84.9%	85-89.9%	90-94.9%	95% OR HIGHER
Acadia	0	2.4	12.8	16.4	22.1	25.6	16	4.7
Alberta	0	0.2	2.6	12.6	27.7	30.2	20.9	5.8
Bishop's	0.3	1.3	8.8	22	27.6	23.8	15.2	1
Brandon	10.3	11.5	13.2	14.4	24	13.7	10.3	2.7
UBC	0	0.1	0.3	3.6	22.1	34.6	28.8	10.6
Brock	0.1	2	18.6	31.4	29.8	13.5	4	0.6
Calgary	0	0.3	4.2	19.3	32.8	28.2	13.1	2.1
Cape Breton	2.3	5.2	8.4	14.7	21.3	24.2	17.8	6.1
Carleton	0	0.2	13.8	23.4	27.2	22.2	10.9	2.2
Concordia	0	3.8	7	20.8	26.4	27.8	13.2	1
Dalhousie	0	0	2.7	19.7	30.1	23	17.5	6.9
Guelph	0	0	0.7	30.6	38	22.7	7.4	0.6
Lakehead	0	19.7	20.8	24.6	18.7	9.5	6	0.6
Laurentian	0.3	6.9	24	22.3	23.9	12.9	8.1	1.5
Laval	0	0	1	11	27	31.3	26.2	3.4
Lethbridge	0	8.5	18.1	25.2	20.6	16.9	8.6	2.1
Manitoba	0.8	6	9.7	16.7	19.3	23.1	16.6	7.9
McGill	0	0	0	0.3	11.6	44.7	36.9	6.5
McMaster	0	0	0	23.1	38	23.8	12.8	2.3
Memorial	0	1.4	23.1	25.1	23.9	17.6	7.9	1
Moncton	2.6	9.3	22.1	21.4	22.9	11.9	8.8	1.1
Montréal	0	0.1	0.7	5.2	21.4	33.4	34.6	4.7
Mount Allison	0	0.4	1.4	24.2	23.8	23.2	20	6.9
Mount Saint Vincent	0	4.9	15.2	19.1	28.2	22	8.5	2.1
New Brunswick	0.4	5.3	13.8	22.7	20.6	21.3	12.9	3.1
Nipissing	0	1.9	21	32.4	28	12.6	3.9	0.2
UNBC	0	5.4	15.4	20.3	18.9	21.9	11.6	6.5
Ottawa	0	0	11.7	21.9	26.2	24.3	13.4	2.4
UPEI	0.4	8.6	15.4	19	23.2	19.4	12	2.2
Queen's	0	0	0	3.2	22.5	37.5	28	8.7
Regina	1.3	5.1	10.1	16.2	22.5	20.1	18.9	5.8
Ryerson	0	0.1	18.3	33.1	30.3	13.3	4.7	0.2
St. Francis Xavier	0	0.4	4.4	16	21.2	27.7	22.2	8.2
Saint Mary's	0	0.6	21.6	15.2	36.4	14.7	9.6	1.9
St. Thomas	0	0	14.3	19.7	23.3	21.8	17	3.9
Saskatchewan	0	0.4	3.9	9.2	18.5	27	27.6	13.3
Sherbrooke	0	0	0.3	5.1	27.8	36.2	25.1	5.6
Simon Fraser	0.1	0.2	3.7	12	26.1	30.7	22.9	4.5
Toronto	0	0	3.7	14.5	24.8	34.9	17.2	4.9
Trent	1	9.1	28.7	22	22.6	11.6	4.3	0.7
Victoria	0.1	0.2	2.6	20.2	31.9	26.9	14.3	3.9
Waterloo	0	0.2	5.2	18.9	26.4	28	18.6	2.6
Western	0	0	0	0.3	15.2	55.2	25.1	4.1
Wilfrid Laurier	0.2	0.8	13.7	27.1	30.7	18.7	7.9	0.8
Windsor	0	0	35.1	27.7	20.7	11.6	4.3	0.6
Winnipeg	1.7	4.4	10.3	21.2	21.7	21.5	15.5	3.7
York	0	0	18.5	28.4	26.2	16.2	9.5	1.2

Note: Due to rounding, the total in each row may not equal 100 per cent.

Indicates a tie. Full description of the methodology page 74

STUDENT RETENTION

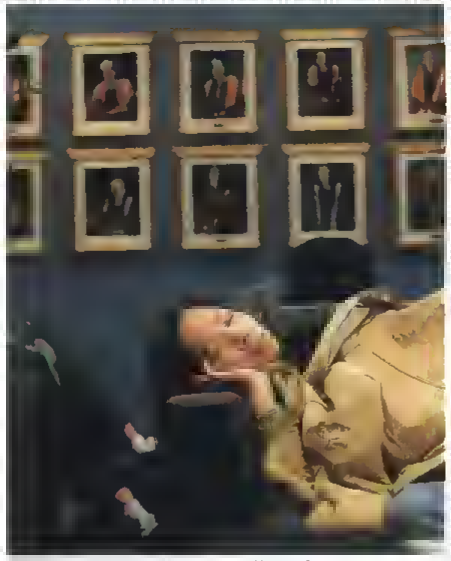
Maclean's calculates the percentage of first-year students who return in second year, either full time or part time

		PER CENT
1	Queen's	96.6
2	Western	96.5
*3	Sherbrooke	95.3
*3	Toronto	95.3
5	Laval	94.7
6	McMaster	93.7
7	Ottawa	93.3
8	Trent	93.2
9	McGill	93.1
10	Windsor	93
11	Saint Mary's	91.2
12	Guelph	91.1
*13	Ryerson	90.9
*13	Waterloo	90.9
15	Montréal	90.8
16	Lakehead	90.3
17	UBC	90.2
18	York	89.7
19	Wilfrid Laurier	89.6
20	Laurentian	89.4
21	Brock	89.3
22	Bishop's	88.1
*23	Carleton	87.2
*23	New Brunswick	87.2
25	St. Francis Xavier	87
26	Calgary	86.1
27	Nipissing	86
28	Alberta	85.6
29	Dalhousie	85.4
*30	Concordia	85.3
*30	Victoria	85.3
32	Simon Fraser	85.1
33	Memorial	84.7
34	Manitoba	84.1
35	Cape Breton	84
36	Mount Allison	83.4
37	UPEI	82.9
38	Acadia	82.7
39	Saskatchewan	82.2
40	Moncton	80.6
41	Winnipeg	79.8
42	Regina	74.6
43	Mount Saint Vincent	74.4
44	St. Thomas	73.4
45	Lethbridge	72.9
46	UNBC	72.6
47	Brandon	71.2

PROPORTION WHO GRADUATE

Maclean's measures the percentage of full-time undergraduates who completed their degree within one year of the expected graduation date

		PER CENT
1	Western	92.8
2	McGill	92.7
3	Montréal	92
4	Saint Mary's	91.8
*5	Ottawa	91.4
*5	Queen's	91.4
7	Toronto	91.3
8	Manitoba	90.5
9	Acadia	89.7
*10	Dalhousie	89.5
*10	Guelph	89.5
12	McMaster	88.2
13	Lakehead	88
14	Saskatchewan	87.8
15	Simon Fraser	87.7
16	UBC	86.9
17	Sherbrooke	86.7
18	Waterloo	86.2
19	Wilfrid Laurier	85.2
20	Victoria	85.1
21	York	85
22	Ryerson	84.6
23	New Brunswick	83.9
24	Alberta	83.7
25	Mount Saint Vincent	83.5
26	Nipissing	83.2
27	UPEI	82.6
28	Lethbridge	82.4
29	Bishop's	81.5
30	Brock	81.4
31	Calgary	80.5
32	Cape Breton	80.2
*33	Regina	80.1
*33	Windsor	80.1
35	Trent	79.6
36	Laval	79.2
37	Carleton	79.1
38	UNBC	78.3
39	St. Thomas	77.9
40	St. Francis Xavier	77.2
41	Laurentian	75.1
42	Concordia	74.6
43	Mount Allison	74.1
44	Memorial	73.5
45	Moncton	67.5
46	Brandon	63.1
47	Winnipeg	60.6



TAKING A CATNAP at Simon Fraser University

OUT OF PROVINCE (FIRST YEAR)

Percentage of students from other provinces

MEDICAL DOCTORAL

		PER CENT
1	Dalhousie	42.3
2	McGill	36.8
3	Queen's	18.4
4	Ottawa	17.6
5	UBC	14
6	Calgary	13.2
7	Alberta	12.3
8	Manitoba	8.5
9	Toronto	6.7
10	Saskatchewan	5.6
11	Western	5.4
12	Montréal	5.3
13	Sherbrooke	3.6
14	McMaster	3.5
15	Laval	2.4

COMPREHENSIVE

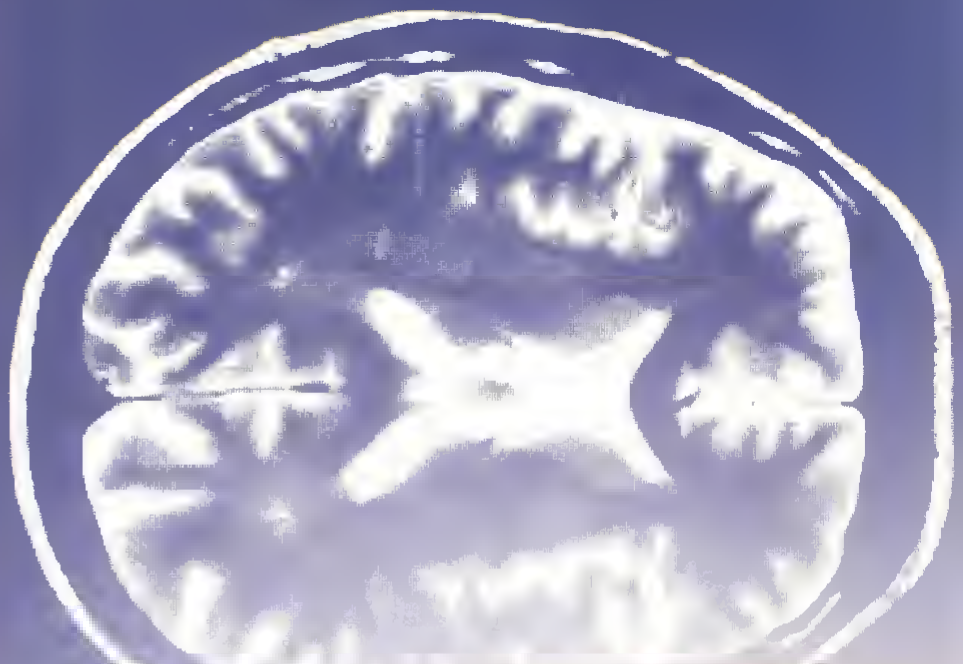
		PER CENT
1	Concordia	21.3
2	Memorial	16.6
3	New Brunswick	15.7
4	Victoria	14.1
5	Carleton	10.1
6	Waterloo	9.3
7	Simon Fraser	5.1
8	Regina	3.1
9	Guelph	2.9
10	York	1.1
11	Windsor	0.9

PRIMARILY UNDERGRADUATE

		PER CENT
1	Mount Allison	57
2	Bishop's	53.2
3	St. Francis Xavier	37.6
4	Saint Mary's	29.2
5	Acadia	28.8
6	St. Thomas	26.7
7	Lethbridge	15.4
8	Brandon	14.8
9	UPEI	14
10	Mount Saint Vincent	13.5
11	Moncton	10.3
12	Cape Breton	9.4
13	Trent	4.6
14	Winnipeg	3.8
*15	Lakehead	3.7
*15	UNBC	3.7
*15	Ryerson	3.7
18	Laurentian	2
*19	Brock	0.8
*19	Wilfrid Laurier	0.8
21	Nipissing	0.7

PHOTOGRAPH BY RICK COLLINS

*Indicates a tie. Full description of the methodology, page 74



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INTERNATIONAL (FIRST YEAR)

Percentage of students from outside Canada:

MEDICAL DOCTORAL	PER CENT
1 McGill	17.7
2 Montréal	12.7
3 Laval	10.8
4 Toronto	10.3
5 UBC	9.6
6 Ottawa	7.9
7 Dalhousie	7.5
8 McMaster	7
9 Western	6.5
10 Manitoba	5.2
11 Queen's	4.5
12 Alberta	4.1
13 Calgary	2
14 Sherbrooke	1.7
15 Saskatchewan	0.7

COMPREHENSIVE	
1 Windsor	15.1
2 Concordia	11.9
3 Simon Fraser	11
*4 Carleton	8.3
*4 Waterloo	8.3
6 Victoria	6.3
7 Memorial	6
8 Regina	4.8
*9 New Brunswick	4.4
*9 York	4.4
11 Guelph	2.6

PRIMARILY UNDERGRADUATE	
1 Acadia	19.8
2 Saint Mary's	19.4
3 Cape Breton	13.4
4 Bishop's	12.1
5 Lethbridge	8.3
6 Laurentian	8.5
7 Mount Allison	8
8 Ryerson	5.5
9 Trent	5.2
10 Winnipeg	5.1
11 St. Thomas	4.9
12 Moncton	4.5
13 Mount Saint Vincent	3.9
14 St. Francis Xavier	3.3
15 Brandon	3
*16 Brock	2.9
*16 UPEI	2.8
18 Lakehead	1.5
*19 Nipissing	1.4
*19 Wilfrid Laurier	1.4
21 UNBC	0.8

INTERNATIONAL (GRADUATE)

Percentage of graduate students from outside Canada:

MEDICAL DOCTORAL	PER CENT
1 Saskatchewan	27.8
2 Queen's	24.7
3 Alberta	24.5
4 UBC	24.2
5 McGill	22.7
6 McMaster	22.5
7 Western	21.5
8 Ottawa	20.2
*9 Calgary	20.1
*9 Dalhousie	20.1
11 Montréal	20
12 Manitoba	18.2
13 Laval	17.8
14 Toronto	16.7
15 Sherbrooke	15.2

COMPREHENSIVE	
1 Windsor	43.8
2 Regina	37.7
3 Waterloo	35.1
4 New Brunswick	28.3
5 Memorial	23.4
6 Victoria	23.1
7 Concordia	22.5
8 Guelph	21.2
9 Carleton	19.3
10 Simon Fraser	18.7
11 York	12.5

STUDENT AWARDS

The five year tally (2001-2005) of the number of students, per 1,000, who have won national awards

MEDICAL DOCTORAL	
1 McGill	9.9
2 Queen's	8.4
3 UBC	8.8
4 Toronto	8.2
5 Alberta	7.8
6 Dalhousie	7.6
7 McMaster	6.7
8 Montréal	6.6
9 Calgary	6.3
10 Laval	5.9
11 Ottawa	5.8
12 Manitoba	5.6
13 Western	5.2
14 Sherbrooke	4.5
15 Saskatchewan	3.3

COMPREHENSIVE	
1 Waterloo	7.3
2 Simon Fraser	6.8
3 Carleton	5.9
4 Victoria	5
5 Guelph	4.3
6 New Brunswick	4.8
7 York	3.4
8 Concordia	3
9 Memorial	2.7
10 Regina	2.3
11 Windsor	1.3

PRIMARILY UNDERGRADUATE	
1 Mount Allison	4.4
2 Acadia	3.8
3 Winnipeg	3.5
4 UPEI	3.2
5 UNBC	3.1
6 St. Francis Xavier	2.7
*7 Saint Mary's	2.6
*7 Trent	2.6
9 Laurentian	2.3
10 Lakehead	2.2
11 Brandon	1.8
*12 Lethbridge	1.7
*12 Moncton	1.7
14 Bishop's	1.6
15 Brock	1.3
16 Wilfrid Laurier	1.2
*17 Cape Breton	0.7
*17 Mount Saint Vincent	0.7
*17 Nipissing	0.7
20 Ryerson	0.5
21 St. Thomas	0.2

A BREAK FROM THE BOOKS: Students unwind during a game of floor hockey at the University of Winnipeg

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARIANNE HELM

*Indicates a tie. Full description of the methodology page 74

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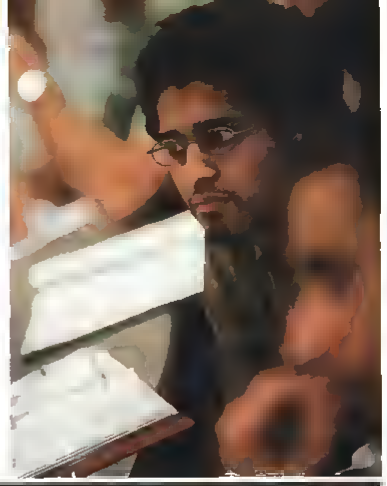
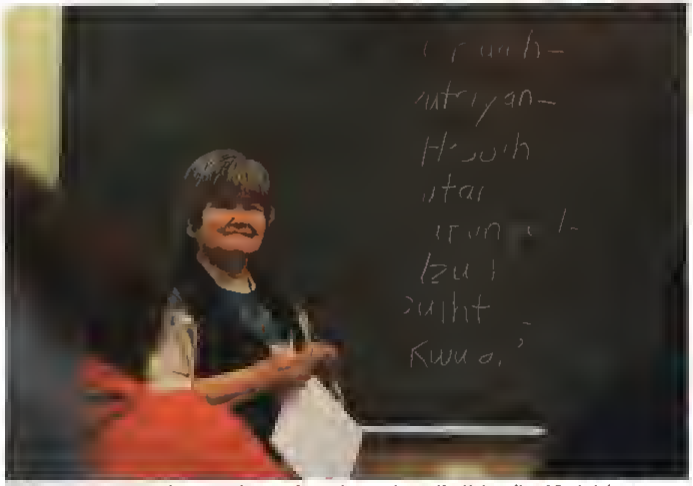
Classes

For undergraduates, the classroom is the front line of learning. Maclean's takes account of the percentage of students in each of six distinct class-size ranges. And, since tenure is a significant measure of a faculty member's worth, Maclean's measures the commitment of universities to placing tenured and tenure-stream professors at the head of first-year classes.



QUEEN'S students (right); teaching a class in the Carrier language at UNBC



SMALL CLASS SIZES enhance student-professor interaction at the University of Saskatchewan

PHOTOGRAPH BY SIMON HAYTER (TOP); PHOTOGRAPH BY RICK COLLINS, COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

CLASSES TAUGHT BY TENURED FACULTY

Maclean's measures the percentage of first-year classes taught by tenured or tenure-track professors.

	PER CENT
MEDICAL DOCTORAL	
1 Laval	74.2
2 Western	74.1
3 Sherbrooke	68.7
4 Toronto	99.3
5 Ottawa	92.9
6 Queen's	62.7
7 Montréal	61.9
8 McMaster	58.5
9 Alberta	53.3
10 Calgary	50.7
11 Dalhousie	50.5
12 Saskatchewan	47.9
13 UBC	47.7
14 McGill	46
15 Manitoba	43.9
COMPREHENSIVE	
1 Guelph	78.3
2 Waterloo	73.5
3 Windsor	67.9
4 Victoria	65.9
5 York	57.9
6 New Brunswick	59.2
7 Concordia	53.2
8 Memorial	44.7
9 Simon Fraser	43.7
10 Regina	39.3
11 Carleton	33.9
PRIMARILY UNDERGRADUATE	
1 Cape Breton	92.9
2 Trent	90.5
3 Saint Mary's	79.3
4 UPEI	77.2
5 St. Francis Xavier	75
6 Lakehead	72.3
7 Mount Allison	68.3
8 Brandon	67.1
9 Lethbridge	62.3
10 Laurentian	60.9
11 Acadia	59.4
12 Mount Saint Vincent	59.7
13 Ryerson	57.9
14 Brock	55.9
15 Moncton	53.5
16 UNBC	49.6
17 Wilfrid Laurier	45.6
18 St. Thomas	44.9
19 Nipissing	41.2
20 Bishop's	40.9
21 Winnipeg	37.2

Full description of the methodology page 74

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS IN EACH CLASS-SIZE RANGE

First and second year

	1-25	26-50	51-100	101-250	251-500	500+
MEDICAL DOCTORAL						
1 Sherbrooke	19.31	41.38	30.52	8.1	0.69	none
2 Laval	22.3	20.09	28.34	27.47	1.81	none
3 Montréal	14.72	24.21	40.22	18.76	2.09	none
*4 Saskatchewan	9.09	26.92	25.68	34.3	4	none
*4 Western	15.62	19.88	33.17	16.91	11.86	2.55
6 Ottawa	11.64	18.24	32.14	36.49	1.49	none
7 Dalhousie	6.68	22.05	28.5	33.38	7.82	1.59
8 Manitoba	7.4	16.79	26.18	42.82	7.01	none
*9 UBC	9.88	14.94	21.95	44.36	8.86	none
*9 Calgary	7.29	15.53	29.29	38.25	9.64	none
11 Alberta	7.8	14.89	25.9	34.23	17.17	none
12 McGill	9.62	13.59	27.22	30.7	13.75	5.13
13 Queen's	8.59	10.26	24.9	32.45	23.79	none
14 Toronto	6.22	8.25	19.74	34.83	21.33	9.64
15 McMaster	3.93	10.05	13.53	40.25	29.52	2.72
COMPREHENSIVE						
1 Memorial	10.7	45.72	27.84	9.28	6.45	none
2 Guelph	29.91	21.9	18.75	15.4	14.03	none
3 Regina	18.1	29.49	27.24	21.64	3.53	none
4 New Brunswick	12.5	29.53	33.66	19.07	5.25	none
5 Concordia	11.9	28.83	39.45	13.97	0.78	5.07
6 Waterloo	16.26	17.8	35	23.14	4	1.8
7 Victoria	10.5	20.99	31.06	30.43	7.02	none
8 Carleton	8.65	11.49	27.96	35.01	16.89	none
9 Windsor	7.64	10.74	26.14	39.5	15.99	none
10 Simon Fraser	7.61	11.29	23.66	42.31	15.13	none
11 York	7.07	8.4	21.63	37.73	22.25	2.92
PRIMARILY UNDERGRADUATE						
1 Cape Breton	35.41	40.21	22.76	1.62	none	none
*2 Bishop's	23.04	46.95	28.87	1.13	none	none
*2 Mount Saint Vincent	26.31	41.04	31.15	1.49	none	none
4 UNBC	34.65	26.57	27.44	11.35	none	none
5 Moncton	23.04	47.25	21.69	6.74	1.28	none
6 St. Thomas	13.14	49.38	37.48	none	none	none
*7 Brandon	24.63	31.66	31.94	11.77	none	none
*7 Trent	44.49	14	16.9	14.92	9.69	none
9 Acadia	14.35	44.79	34.27	6.59	none	none
10 St. Francis Xavier	16.33	40.64	32.93	10.09	none	none
11 UPEI	19.71	32.76	33.89	10.76	2.88	none
12 Winnipeg	11.49	37.19	41.85	9.47	none	none
13 Laurentian	14.58	27.2	33.64	21.51	3.07	none
*14 Lakehead	12.39	28.47	34.03	20.32	4.78	none
*14 Lethbridge	11.92	24.1	38.58	25.4	none	none
16 Nipissing	10.65	24.76	40.86	23.73	none	none
17 Mount Allison	12.22	24.56	27.83	35.39	none	none
18 Saint Mary's	6.34	23.98	42.26	27.42	none	none
19 Ryerson	8.33	28.58	32.18	23.64	4.24	3.03
20 Wilfrid Laurier	4.82	13.99	33.41	35.98	11.8	none
21 Brock	3.93	12.06	25.26	31.26	27.49	none

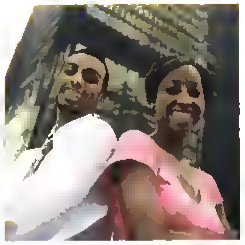
PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS IN EACH CLASS-SIZE RANGE

Third and fourth year

	1-25	26-50	51-100	101-250	251-500	500+
MEDICAL DOCTORAL						
1 Saskatchewan	33.73	44.78	20.13	1.36	none	none
*2 Sherbrooke	31.9	45.57	19.13	3.4	none	none
*2 Western	39.03	35.49	18.13	7.34	none	none
4 McGill	37.64	28.07	28.35	5.94	none	none
5 Manitoba	34.6	28.7	31.81	4.89	none	none
6 Dalhousie	33.54	33.49	23.61	9.35	none	none
7 Montréal	32.51	29.52	30.84	6.48	0.64	none
8 Calgary	24.18	44.48	23.75	7.58	none	none
9 Laval	33.74	27.88	26.57	11.8	none	none
10 Ottawa	25.58	32.41	32.55	9.46	none	none
11 Alberta	24.82	28.6	31.02	14.25	1.31	none
12 Queen's	24.86	29.95	26.17	16.62	2.39	none
13 Toronto	20.65	32.05	30.56	13.87	1.99	0.89
14 UBC	15.09	27.86	32.65	18.9	5.49	none
15 McMaster	18.2	23.46	24.53	31.49	2.32	none
COMPREHENSIVE						
1 Regina	38.53	50.17	9.82	1.48	none	none
2 Memorial	35.21	45.85	15.99	2.96	none	none
3 New Brunswick	31.32	41.05	24.73	1.49	1.41	none
4 Guelph	30.28	48.16	14.7	3.13	3.73	none
5 Victoria	27.1	40.84	25.01	7.04	none	none
6 Concordia	25.25	38.01	31.67	5.07	none	none
7 Windsor	22.85	41.54	27.68	7.93	none	none
8 York	24.21	35.47	29.03	11.3	none	none
9 Simon Fraser	23.59	33.8	30.55	10.96	1.1	none
10 Carleton	21.58	31.33	33.54	11.39	2.18	none
11 Waterloo	20.97	26.46	37.89	12.24	2.44	none
PRIMARILY UNDERGRADUATE						
1 Brandon	80.74	19.26	none	none	none	none
2 Mount Saint Vincent	54.58	45.42	none	none	none	none
3 Cape Breton	57.83	36.97	5.2	none	none	none
4 Mount Allison	57.09	37.63	5.28	none	none	none
5 Bishop's	45.7	54.3	none	none	none	none
6 St. Francis Xavier	44.06	48.43	7.5	none	none	none
7 Moncton	49.28	39.21	9.22	2.3	none	none
8 UNBC	46.7	40.78	12.52	none	none	none
9 Nipissing	45.37	40.46	14.17	none	none	none
10 Acadia	44.44	44.18	6.87	4.51	none	none
*11 UPEI	46.2	36.09	17.71	none	none	none
*11 Trent	49.45	33.45	12.25	4.84	none	none
13 Laurentian	43.56	38.13	15.03	3.28	none	none
14 St. Thomas	34.57	48.4	17.03	none	none	none
*15 Lethbridge	30.09	50.55	19.36	none	none	none
*15 Winnipeg	34.6	49.51	8.05	7.84	none	none
17 Brock	26.79	49.52	17.91	5.78	none	none
18 Lakehead	23.4	31.61	19.38	5.61	none	none
19 Wilfrid Laurier	21.55	50.74	24.85	2.86	none	none
20 Saint Mary's	24.51	44.33	18.53	12.63	none	none
21 Ryerson	15.64	37.32	34.53	12.51	none	none

Indicates a tie. Full description of the methodology, page 74

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH HUMBER



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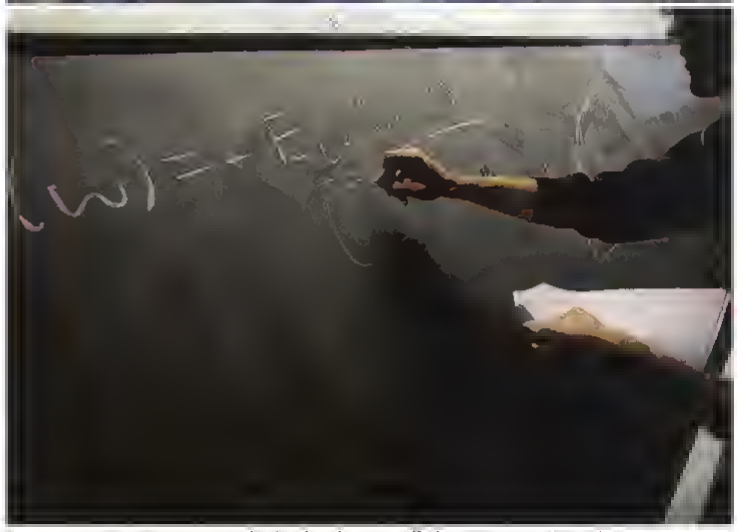

MICROBIOLOGIST Laura England and students at Wilfrid Laurier University (top)

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SIMON HAYTER

Faculty

The calibre of the faculty is vital to the students' own development. Maclean's calculates the percentage of faculty with a Ph.D. It also measures their success at winning national awards, as well as peer-adjudicated grants from the three main federal granting agencies: the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

FACULTY WITH Ph.D.s

Maclean's measures the percentage of full-time faculty with a Ph.D. or doctorate. Excluded from the count are disciplines in which a doctorate is not the most common terminal degree

MEDICAL DOCTORAL		PER CENT
*1	Alberta	99.1
*1	UBC	99.1
3	Ottawa	99
4	Western	98.8
5	Toronto	98.5
6	Manitoba	98.2
7	Queen's	97.9
8	Laval	97.8
9	McMaster	96.5
10	Montréal	95.7
11	McGill	95.4
12	Sherbrooke	93.3
13	Calgary	93.1
14	Saskatchewan	92.3
15	Dalhousie	90.7

COMPREHENSIVE		
1	Guelph	99.8
2	Waterloo	95.7
3	Windsor	94.1
4	Victoria	92.8
5	Carleton	92.7
6	Simon Fraser	92.1
7	York	90.9
8	Memorial	87.3
9	New Brunswick	86.5
10	Concordia	85
11	Regina	73.4

PRIMARILY UNDERGRADUATE		
1	St. Thomas	97.1
2	Saint Mary's	95.8
3	Wilfrid Laurier	93.8
4	UNBC	93.1
5	Mount Allison	92.6
6	Lakehead	90.8
7	St. Francis Xavier	89.1
8	Trent	88.2
9	Acadia	88
10	UPEI	88
11	Brock	85.8
12	Laurentian	84.8
13	Mount Saint Vincent	81.8
14	Lethbridge	81
15	Nipissing	78.9
16	Winnipeg	78.8
17	Brandon	78.8
18	Bishop's	75.8
19	Moncton	74
20	Ryerson	72.7
21	Cape Breton	84.3

*Indicates a tie. Full description of the methodology, page 74

FACULTY AWARDS

The five year tally (2001-2005) of the number of full-time professors, per 1,000, who have won national awards The list of more than 40 awards programs includes the 3M Teaching Fellowship Awards, the Gerhard Herzberg Canada Gold Medal for Science and Engineering, plus the Molson and Killam Prizes, awarded by the Canada Council

MEDICAL DOCTORAL	
1 Queen's	13.3
2 Toronto	10.1
3 UBC	9.8
4 McGill	8.9
5 Alberta	6.2
6 Montréal	5.9
7 Ottawa	5.5
8 McMaster	4.6
*9 Dalhousie	3.8
*9 Laval	3.6
*9 Saskatchewan	3.6
12 Calgary	3.5
13 Western	3.2
14 Sherbrooke	2.8
15 Manitoba	1.4

COMPREHENSIVE	
1 Simon Fraser	7.2
2 Waterloo	5.8
3 York	5
4 Victoria	4.3
5 Windsor	2.7
6 New Brunswick	2.4
7 Memorial	2.3
8 Guelph	2.1
9 Carleton	1.9
10 Regina	1.3
11 Concordia	0.8

PRIMARILY UNDERGRADUATE	
1 UPEI	4.9
2 Mount Allison	3.1
3 Trent	3
*4 Brandon	2.8
*4 Mount Saint Vincent	2.8
*8 Brock	2.8
*8 Wilfrid Laurier	2.8
8 Nipissing	2.3
9 Lethbridge	2.2
10 Acadia	2
11 Laurentian	1.9
12 St. Francis Xavier	1.8
13 Ryerson	1.5
14 UNBC	1.3
15 Moncton	1
16 Saint Mary's	0.9
*17 Lakehead	0.8
*17 Winnipeg	0.8
*19 Bishop's	none
*19 Cape Breton	none
*19 St. Thomas	none

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES GRANTS

Below are the average size and number of peer-adjudicated research grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council The size of grants is listed per eligible full-time faculty member, the number of grants is per 100 eligible full-time faculty members. The ranking reflects a weighted average of the two

MEDICAL DOCTORAL		
1 McGill	$23,864	71.22
2 UBC	16,186	37.32
3 Ottawa	18,882	30.83
4 Montréal	15,038	35.39
5 Toronto	13,153	38.01
6 Alberta	13,573	24.95
7 McMaster	10,884	26.01
8 Western	10,873	21.13
9 Laval	8,044	27.38
10 Queen's	7,453	24.25
11 Sherbrooke	6,703	21.2
12 Manitoba	7,393	16.74
13 Saskatchewan	8,035	19.15
14 Calgary	5,523	18.25
15 Dalhousie	5,388	16.87

COMPREHENSIVE		
1 Simon Fraser	$13,381	25.38
2 Guelph	10,332	28.4
3 Concordia	9,568	23.31
4 Waterloo	8,034	27.3
5 Victoria	7,545	22.62
6 Carleton	8,448	18.96
7 Regina	8,168	12.16
8 New Brunswick	7,027	12.31
9 York	5,312	15.72
10 Windsor	7,475	8.87
11 Memorial	5,415	12.53

PRIMARILY UNDERGRADUATE		
1 Mount Saint Vincent	$9,942	15.04
2 UNBC	7,374	19.32
3 UPEI	4,501	19.77
4 Saint Mary's	5,503	14.81
5 Wilfrid Laurier	3,939	15.46
6 St. Francis Xavier	2,790	16.54
7 St. Thomas	3,632	14.42
8 Trent	3,282	14.75
9 Lakehead	3,542	14.08
10 Winnipeg	3,850	12.8
11 Moncton	2,823	10.38
12 Mount Allison	2,523	10
13 Cape Breton	2,381	9.23
14 Acadia	2,242	9.52
15 Brock	2,351	8.65
16 Lethbridge	1,811	4.59
17 Brandon	2,814	2.41
18 Nipissing	1,041	5.36
19 Ryerson	1,234	4.84
20 Laurentian	985	4
21 Bishop's	681	4.85

MEDICAL/SCIENCE GRANTS

Here are the average size and number of peer adjudicated research grants from both the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. The size of grants is listed per eligible full time faculty member, the number of grants is per 100 eligible full time faculty members The ranking reflects a weighted average of the two

MEDICAL DOCTORAL		
1 Toronto	$148,675	172.89
2 McGill	121,024	155.1
*3 UBC	109,385	150.99
*3 Ottawa	117,570	144.24
5 Montréal	104,985	140.41
6 Queen's	89,989	140.84
7 McMaster	93,931	129.36
8 Laval	79,544	139.33
9 Alberta	84,391	134.32
10 Western	82,330	128.52
11 Calgary	77,222	124.38
12 Sherbrooke	59,163	113.33
13 Saskatchewan	88,135	104.02
14 Manitoba	54,353	88.39
15 Dalhousie	42,042	79.15

COMPREHENSIVE		
1 Victoria	$90,949	180.75
2 Simon Fraser	82,586	133.71
3 Guelph	87,459	123.4
4 Waterloo	54,352	124.24
5 Concordia	43,754	118.75
6 Windsor	53,425	88.83
7 Carleton	38,324	101.93
8 York	35,214	85.08
9 New Brunswick	25,334	84.15
10 Regina	23,845	81.94
11 Memorial	31,230	70.68

PRIMARILY UNDERGRADUATE		
1 Lethbridge	$30,024	93.83
2 Trent	26,467	72
3 St. Francis Xavier	19,823	82.43
4 Brock	23,160	68.81
5 Mount Allison	18,026	74.51
6 Lakehead	20,295	67.23
7 Saint Mary's	16,997	75
8 Laurentian	20,089	61.95
9 Ryerson	16,193	69.07
10 UPEI	20,825	54.81
11 Wilfrid Laurier	14,121	86.3
12 Acadia	15,072	82.82
13 Winnipeg	14,342	54.69
14 UNBC	13,418	55.13
15 Moncton	12,104	52.94
16 Bishop's	5,010	42.31
17 Nipissing	5,138	36.36
18 Cape Breton	4,728	21.74
19 Brandon	4,811	21.05
20 Mount Saint Vincent	3,768	18.52
— St. Thomas†	N/A	N/A

*St. Thomas is exempted from reporting information for this indicator as it does not offer science programs. Its overall score is calculated on the remaining indicators

Indicates a tie

Full description of the methodology page 74

WHY ON EARTH WOULD YOU CHOOSE ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY?

Well, to start no other Canadian [illegible] e **liberal arts** [illegible] 30 fields of study with **signature programmes** in [illegible] and Great Ideas as well as the innovative first year **Aquinos** Programme Their cou[illegible]nal **growth** and cultivation of **individuality** They offer intellectual and **spiritual** [illegible] by introducing the **ideas** that have shaped our culture and institutions thus developing **well-rounded** individuals Students are challenged to take a critical look at the world **ask questions** and search for answers while developing and honing their writing problem solving and **creative** abilities In short students develop the ability to think for themselves With an average **class size** of only 32 students professors know their students as individuals and encourage them to achieve their full potential St. [illegible] devotes more of its operating budget towards **scholarships** and **student services** than any other [illegible] undergraduate university in the [illegible] region Did we mention St Thomas has extremely affordable tuition and the highest percentage of **faculty with Ph.D.'s** in the country? They are [illegible]tionally **ranked** for quality teaching and instruction learning environment and overall educational experience [illegible] Even more a North American survey of 557 institutions found students reported **higher satisfaction** [illegible] their peers in relationship with faculty support needed to succeed and [illegible]tional experience It's about quality and opportunity The **beautiful campus** [illegible] **safe** and only a 15-minute walk from historic **downtown Fredericton** [illegible] Students in any year of study can participate in innovative **research** present their [illegible] **Student Research & Ideas Fair** or take part in extra-curricular activities that are central to their [illegible] development **Academic advising** is available to all students from first year to graduation including [illegible] and a writing service There are on campus residences that accommodate 480 students **Residence** ro[illegible] all equipped with high speed Internet telephone and cable services There is professional security as well as a residence staff member on duty 24 hours a day Students at St Thomas can participate or enjoy **Theatre St. Thomas** music literature, art sports and athletics The Varsity athletics teams the **Tammies** offer students an opportunity to participate at a level of competition suitable to their abilities Oh, and over the past five years four **new buildings** have been added to the campus Because some of their facilities are shared with the University of New Brunswick St Thomas is able to offer students library athletic health **social and cultural opportunities** found at institutions many times their size Not to mention this relationship gives students greater elective **course options** in arts, sciences and computer studies More than anything there is always a strong sense of **community** between faculty staff alumni and students Does that help at all?

St. Thomas University
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Finances

The financial resources at a university's disposal determine its ability to provide students with many valuable opportunities. Maclean's measures the size of the operating budget per weighted full-time-equivalent student, as well as the percentage of the budget devoted to student services and to scholarships and bursaries.

OPERATING BUDGET

Operating expenditures per weighted full-time equivalent student.

MEDICAL DOCTORAL		
1	Saskatchewan	$10 852
2	Queen's	10,637
3	Alberta	10,172
4	Toronto	10,023
5	Calgary	9,999
6	UBC	9,769
7	McGill	9,677
8	Dalhousie	9,559
9	Montréal	9,154
10	McMaster	9,100
11	Western	8,952
12	Manitoba	8,846
13	Ottawa	8,793
14	Laval	8,727
15	Sherbrooke	7,864
COMPREHENSIVE		
1	Victoria	$10,408
2	Simon Fraser	9,854
3	Regina	9,487
4	Waterloo	9,374
5	Memorial	9,175
6	Guelph	8,795
7	New Brunswick	8,328
8	Carleton	8,177
9	York	7,785
10	Concordia	7,490
11	Windsor	7,105
PRIMARILY UNDERGRADUATE		
1	Mount Allison	$12,392
2	UNBC	11,522
3	UPEI	11,306
4	Bishop's	10,484
5	Acadia	10,323
6	St. Francis Xavier	10,069
7	Moncton	9,719
8	Lethbridge	9,587
9	Saint Mary's	9,428
10	St. Thomas	8,948
11	Laurentian	8,555
12	Trent	8,553
13	Brandon	8,327
14	Winnipeg	8,141
15	Mount Saint Vincent	8,034
16	Lakehead	7,971
17	Nipissing	7,911
18	Ryerson	7,491
19	Cape Breton	7,301
20	Wilfrid Laurier	6,869
21	Brock	6,440

SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES

Percentage of total operating expenditures devoted to scholarships and bursaries

		PER CENT
MEDICAL DOCTORAL		
1	McGill	11.95
2	Sherbrooke	11.47
3	Toronto	10.81
4	Western	10.66
5	Queen's	10.5
6	Alberta	10.22
7	McMaster	10.08
8	Dalhousie	9.64
9	Laval	9.25
10	Ottawa	9.21
11	Montréal	8.05
12	UBC	7.83
13	Calgary	7.51
14	Saskatchewan	7.03
15	Manitoba	2.35
COMPREHENSIVE		
1	Waterloo	11.04
2	Carleton	9.62
3	York	8.56
4	Victoria	8.52
5	Guelph	7.61
6	Simon Fraser	7.27
7	Regina	7.04
8	Windsor	6.74
9	Memorial	5.95
10	New Brunswick	3.14
11	Concordia	1.72
PRIMARILY UNDERGRADUATE		
1	Trent	10.09
2	Laurentian	8.4
3	Lakehead	8.17
4	Wilfrid Laurier	7.48
5	Brock	6.73
6	St. Thomas	6.61
7	Mount Allison	6.1
8	St. Francis Xavier	5.93
9	Acadia	5.59
10	UPEI	5.42
*11	Nipissing	5.11
*11	Ryerson	5.11
13	Saint Mary's	4.92
14	Bishop's	4.83
15	Mount Saint Vincent	4.42
16	UNBC	3.76
17	Winnipeg	3.38
18	Moncton	3.29
19	Lethbridge	3.11
20	Cape Breton	2.55
21	Brandon	2.23

STUDENT SERVICES

Percentage of total operating expenditures devoted to student services

		PER CENT
MEDICAL DOCTORAL		
1	McGill	5.69
2	Laval	5.09
3	Sherbrooke	5.01
4	Manitoba	4.77
5	Ottawa	3.79
6	McMaster	3.25
7	Western	3.24
8	Saskatchewan	2.97
9	Queen's	2.96
10	Toronto	2.7
11	Calgary	2.66
12	Montréal	2.55
13	UBC	2.37
14	Alberta	2.26
15	Dalhousie	2.14
COMPREHENSIVE		
1	Guelph	7.53
2	Waterloo	6.49
3	York	6.42
4	Windsor	6.26
5	Simon Fraser	6.19
6	Memorial	5.91
7	Victoria	5.03
8	Regina	4.58
9	New Brunswick	3.77
10	Carleton	3.56
11	Concordia	3.19
PRIMARILY UNDERGRADUATE		
1	Bishop's	11.38
2	Winnipeg	9.7
3	St. Thomas	9.16
4	St. Francis Xavier	7.46
5	Cape Breton	7.39
6	UNBC	7
7	Wilfrid Laurier	6.85
8	Acadia	6.75
9	Mount Allison	6.13
10	Saint Mary's	6
11	Trent	5.62
12	UPEI	5.51
13	Brandon	5.36
14	Nipissing	4.87
15	Moncton	4.42
16	Mount Saint Vincent	4.24
17	Laurentian	4.15
18	Lakehead	4.01
19	Ryerson	3.99
20	Brock	3.1
21	Lethbridge	2.79

*Indicates a tie. Full description of the methodology page 74

I wanted my daughter to go to university and become a lawyer.
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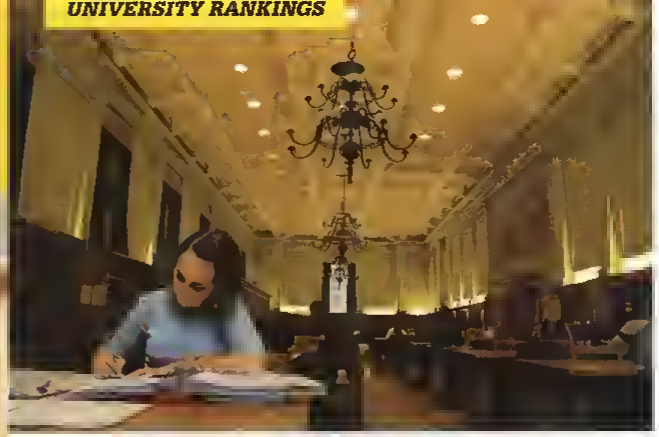

PHOTOGRAPH BY JASON SCOTT/EPIC PHOTOGRAPHY
PHOTOGRAPH BY RICK COLLINS

Library

Libraries are a motherlode of information, and a major study spot on campus. Maclean's measures the percentage of the operating budget committed to library funding, as well as the collection's size and currency. Given the shift from a traditional model to an electronic access model, Maclean's captures spending on electronic resources in both library expenses and acquisitions.

HITTING THE BOOKS—and the computer terminals: W.A.C. Bennett Library at Simon Fraser, Alberta's Rutherford Library (above)

TOTAL LIBRARY HOLDINGS

This indicator measures total holdings in all campus libraries, acknowledging the importance of extensive on-campus collections at Medical-Doctoral universities.

MEDICAL DOCTORAL		IN MILLIONS
1	Toronto	14.18
2	Alberta	9.81
3	UBC	8.948
4	Queen's	6.295
5	Western	5.753
*6	Calgary	5.1
*6	McGill	5.1
8	Laval	4.978
9	Saskatchewan	4.495
10	Montréal	4.108
11	Ottawa	3.981
12	McMaster	3.132
13	Manitoba	3.104
14	Dalhousie	2.203
15	Sherbrooke	1.896

HOLDINGS PER STUDENT

These figures show the number of volumes in all campus libraries, divided by the number of full-time-equivalent students.

MEDICAL DOCTORAL		
1	Queen's	334
2	Alberta	328
3	Saskatchewan	296
4	UBC	249
5	Toronto	241
6	Laval	218
7	Calgary	217
8	McGill	200
9	Western	199
10	Dalhousie	182
11	Ottawa	180
12	McMaster	152
13	Manitoba	144
14	Sherbrooke	130
15	Montréal	106

COMPREHENSIVE		
1	Memorial	278
2	New Brunswick	249
3	Victoria	229
4	Regina	213
5	Guelph	208
6	Windsor	193
7	Concordia	188
8	Carleton	156
9	Waterloo	148
10	York	128
11	Simon Fraser	124

PRIMARILY UNDERGRADUATE		
1	Mount Allison	397
2	Brandon	383
3	Mount Saint Vincent	359
4	Acadia	330
5	Moncton	270
6	UPEI	266
7	St. Thomas	249
8	Bishop's	243
9	St. Francis Xavier	232
10	UNBC	230
11	Cape Breton	188
12	Lakehead	185
13	Lethbridge	189
14	Laurentian	153
15	Saint Mary's	149
16	Wilfrid Laurier	121
17	Trent	118
18	Nipissing	111
19	Winnipeg	105
20	Brock	79
21	Ryerson	50

*Indicates a tie
Full description of the methodology page 74

ACQUISITIONS

To gauge the currency of resources, *Maclean's* measures the proportion of the library budget allocated to updating the university's collection, including electronic access

MEDICAL DOCTORAL	PER CENT
1 Ottawa	57.11
2 Laval	53.55
3 Saskatchawan	52.71
4 McMastar	52.42
5 Quean's	51.65
6 Western	51.36
7 Sherbrooke	50.73
8 McGill	48.64
9 Toronto	47.33
10 Calgary	43.25
11 Dalhousla	42.25
12 UBC	42.23
13 Alberta	41.76
14 Manitoba	40.06
15 Montréal	38.93

COMPREHENSIVE	
1 Simon Fraser	49.53
2 Windsor	48.68
3 Guelph	46.65
4 Regina	46.44
5 Memorial	44.6
6 Victoria	44.29
7 York	44.12
8 Waterloo	39.83
9 Carleton	34.25
10 Naw Brunswick	32.97
11 Concordia	23.41

PRIMARILY UNDERGRADUATE	
1 Lakehead	46.14
2 UNBC	45.72
3 Wilfrid Laurier	43.84
4 Laurentian	43.26
5 Saint Mary's	41.31
6 Mount Saint Vincant	41.21
7 Moncton	40.38
8 St Francis Xavier	38.55
9 Acadia	38.13
10 UPEI	38.38
11 Brock	37.32
12 Winnipag	36.57
13 Ryerson	35.24
14 Lethbridge	34.58
15 Bishop's	33.17
16 St Thomas	32.97
17 Trant	32
18 Mount Aillson	31.72
19 Nipissing	31.31
20 Brandon	27.7
21 Cape Breton	26.95

EXPENSES

A measure of financial commitment, this indicator shows the percentage of the university budget devoted to maintaining library services

MEDICAL DOCTORAL	PER CENT
1 Toronto	7.51
2 Manitoba	6.23
3 McGill	6.22
4 Saskatchewan	6.08
5 Alberta	5.93
6 Calgary	5.38
7 Laval	5.28
8 Ottawa	5.21
*8 UBC	5.16
*8 Wastern	5.16
11 Montréal	5.11
12 Queen's	4.87
13 Oalhousle	4.32
14 Sharbrooka	4.3
15 McMaster	3.91

COMPREHENSIVE	
1 Memorial	6.48
2 New Brunswick	6.25
3 Regina	5.85
4 Victoria	5.88
5 Simon Fraser	5.83
6 Carlaton	5.73
7 Guelph	5.6
8 Windsor	5.49
9 Watarloo	5.07
10 Concordia	4.73
11 York	4.46

PRIMARILY UNDERGRADUATE	
1 Bishop's	6.71
2 Mount Allison	6.6
3 Brandon	5.96
4 UNBC	5.64
5 Winnipag	5.56
6 Acadia	5.42
7 Wilfrid Laurier	5.27
8 Moncton	4.88
*9 Laurantian	4.82
*9 Saint Mary's	4.82
11 St Francis Xavier	4.73
12 Lethbridga	4.72
13 Lakahaad	4.71
14 St Thomas	4.67
15 Brock	4.56
16 Trant	4.51
17 Capa Bretan	4.48
*18 UPEI	4.02
*18 Ryarson	4.02
20 Nipissing	3.87
21 Mount Saint Vincent	3.95

Alumni Support

Maclean's measures the percentage of grads making gifts to their alma mater over a five-year period

MEDICAL DOCTORAL	PER CENT
1 Toronto	25.9
2 Westarn	24.5
3 McGill	18.7
4 Sherbrooka	17.2
5 Quaan's	16.2
6 Calgary	16.1
7 Oalhousle	16
8 Alberta	15.2
9 Montréal	14.6
10 Saskatchawan	14.5
11 Ottawa	14.4
12 Manitoba	14
*13 UBC	13.8
*13 McMastar	13.8
15 Laval	13.6

COMPREHENSIVE	
1 Waterloo	18.9
2 Guelph	16.8
3 Windsor	16
*4 Simon Frasar	14.5
*4 Victoria	14.5
6 Concordia	14.3
7 Memorial	13.4
8 Carlaton	12.6
9 New Brunswick	12.5
10 York	8.3
11 Ragina	4.3

PRIMARILY UNDERGRADUATE	
1 St. Francis Xaviar	37.4
2 Saint Mary's	26.9
3 Mount Aillson	23.3
4 Winnipag	21.2
5 Bishop's	20.8
6 Mount Saint Vincent	20.7
7 St Thomas	18.6
8 Wilfrid Laurier	17.8
9 Trant	17.3
10 Capa Breton	15.5
11 UPEI	14.6
12 Lakahead	13.7
13 Acadia	13.3
14 Moncton	12.8
15 Brock	10.7
16 Nipissing	10.6
17 UNBC	9.3
18 Ryarson	8.5
19 Brandon	7.7
20 Lathbridge	4.8
21 Laurantian	4

Ind cates a tie Full description of the methodology page 74

PHOTOGRAPH BY TOBIN GRIMSHAW

SHARING A LAUGH. First year in residance at Carlaton

Value Added

Which universities get top marks for going the distance with their students? This measure juxtaposes two sets of figures and identifies those universities with the greatest difference between the two. The first set includes measures related to the incoming student: average entering grade and the proportion of students entering with averages of 75 per cent or higher. The second examines one measure of student satisfaction—the percentage of first-year students who return in second year—and two measures of student achievement: the proportion of students who graduate within a reasonable time frame and who win student awards

TOP 25
1 Lakehead
2 Trent
3 Windsor
4 Saint Mary's
5 Laurentian
6 Ottawa
7 York
8 New Brunswick
9 Toronto
*10 Nipissing
*10 Ryerson
12 Manitoba
13 Brock
14 UPEI
*15 Carlaton
*15 Moncton
17 Waterloo
18 Queen's
19 McMaster
20 Memorial
21 Wilfrid Laurier
22 Guelph
*23 Acadia
*23 Lathbridga
25 McGill

*Indicates a tie

THE MACLEAN'S DIRECTORY

Every university in the *Maclean's* survey has a unique history, a distinct mission—and its own particular strengths. The student numbers below refer to the 2005-2006 academic year.

UNIVERSITY	LOCATION AND FOUNDING DATE	FULL-TIME STUDENTS	PART-TIME STUDENTS
Acadia	Wolfville, N.S. (1838)	3,544	351
Albarta	Edmonton (1908)	31,501	3,888
Bishop's	Lannoxvilla, Que. (1843)	2,206	515
Brandon	Brandon, Man. (1899)	2,310	1,214
British Columbla (UBC)	Vancouver and Kelowna, B.C. (1908)	30,678	14,170
Brock	St. Catharines, Ont. (1964)	13,940	3,466
Calgary	Calgary (1966)	23,598	4,208
Cape Breton	Sydnay, N.S. (1974)	2,577	791
Carlaton	Ottawa (1942)	18,858	4,981
Concordla	Montraal (1874)	20,323	10,827
Oalhousla	Halifax (1818)	13,234	2,315
Gualph	Gualph, Ont. (1964)	16,512	1,617
Lakehead	Thunder Bay, Ont. (1965)	6,087	1,471
Laurentian	Sudbury, Ont. (1960)	6,336	2,321
Laval	Ouebec City (1663)	24,707	13,881
Lathbridga	Lethbridge, Alta. (1967)	6,994	992
Manitoba	Winnipeg (1877)	20,256	7,343
McGill	Montreal (1821)	25,805	5,393
McMastar	Hamilton (1887)	20,536	3,734
Mamorial	St. John's and Cornar Brook, Nfld. (1925)	14,558	3,066
Moncton	Moncton, Edmundston and Shippagan, N.B. (1963)	5,178	1,361
Mantréal	Montreal (1878)	37,267	18,272
Mount Allisan	Sackvilla, N.B. (1839)	2,092	671
Mount Saint Vincent	Halifax (1873)	2,434	2,053
New Brunswick (UNB)	Frederrcton and Saint John, N.B. (1785)	10,537	2,105
Nipissing	North Bay, Ont. (1992)	3,492	2,836
Northern British Columbla (UNBC)	Princa Gaorga, B.C. (1994)	2,509	1,052
Ottawa	Ottawa (1848)	26,783	6,783
Princa Edward island (UPEI)	Charlottetown (1804)	3,383	524
Quaan's	Kingston, Ont. (1841)	17,234	3,549
Regina	Regina (1974)	7,850	4,820
Ryarson	Toronto (1948)	16,263	13,816
St. Francis Xavier	Antigonish, N.S. (1853)	4,073	577
Saint Mary's	Halifax (1802)	6,838	1,222
St Thomas	Fredericton (1910)	2,810	346
Saskatchawan	Saskatoon, Sask. (1907)	15,316	3,380
Sharbrooke	Sherbrooke, Que. (1954)	12,820	8,389
Simon Fraaar	Burnaby, B.C. (1963)	13,588	10,057
Toronto	Toronto (1827)	62,575	8,716
Trent	Patarborough, Ont. (1963)	6,786	1,384
Victorla	Victoria (1963)	12,784	6,146
Waterloa	Waterloo, Ont. (1957)	23,585	2,530
Wastarn Ontario	London, Ont. (1878)	28,715	4,293
Wilfrid Lauriar	Waterloo, Ont. (1911)	11,663	2,245
Windsor	Windsor, Ont. (1857)	13,415	3,416
Winnipag	Winnipeg (1871)	4,111	5,433
York	Toronto (1959)	41,977	8,714

The Bottom Line

Determining which university to attend is hard enough, but paying for that experience continues to get more difficult. On average, tuition fees across Canada increased by 3.2 per cent this year, almost double the rate of growth from the previous academic year. Prince Edward Island had the highest increase at 6.5 per cent, while neighbouring New Brunswick was second at 5.8 per cent. After lifting a two-year freeze on tuition, Ontario elected to raise fees by 4.6 per cent. Nova Scotia—still the most expensive place in which to study—saw a rise of 3.9 per cent as the average tuition climbed to $6,571.

STUDENTS WORK on a fuel-efficient vehicle at Laval

Yet many provinces are heading in the opposite direction. British Columbia halted double-digit increases last year, and the trend continues with a slight 1.9 per cent swell this year. Debt-free, money-saturated Alberta continues to give students a rebate on tuition, and fees remain relatively steady in Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Manitoba. Residents of *la belle province* pay peanuts for their education, since Quebec froze tuition in 1994. But fees for out-of-province students rose by 5.7 per cent and are now triple those for provincial residents. Domestic students pay considerably less, however, than their international classmates. Fees for foreign students increased 5.2 per cent—more than triple what a Canadian student pays.

Meanwhile, compulsory ancillary fees rose by four per cent nationally, with the highest increases occurring in Manitoba and Prince Edward Island. *Cameron Ainsworth-Vincze*

All fees in the accompanying chart are for undergraduate arts and science programs as of September 2006. The names of several universities appear twice. Quebec institutions where out-of-province fees apply, and universities where there are different fees for arts programs and science programs.

Compulsory ancillary fees include student health plan fees. If students are covered by another insurance plan, they can opt out of most health plans which range in cost from $34 to $366.

*Indicates a tie

UNIVERSITY	TUITION	COMPULSORY ANCILLARY FEES	TOTAL
Laval (Quebec students)	$1,668	$510	$2,178
Sherbrooke (Quebec students)	1,668	572	2,240
Montréal (Quebec students)	1,668	600	2,268
Bishop's (Quebec students)	1,668	811	2,479
Concordia (Quebec students)	1,668	1,229	2,897
Memorial	2,550	462	3,012
McGill (Quebec students)	1,668	1,379	3,047
Brandon (Arts)	2,730	432	3,162
Brandon (Science)	2,965	432	3,397
Winnipeg (Arts)	2,911	623	3,534
Manitoba	3,277	563	3,840
Winnipeg (Science)	3,335	623	3,858
Ottawa	4,350	453	4,803
St. Thomas	4,355	455	4,810
UBC (Arts)	4,174	651	4,825
*Laurentian	4,351	492	4,843
*UNBC	4,193	650	4,843
Lakehead	4,300	547	4,847
Saskatchewan (Arts)	4,416	454	4,870
Carleton	4,339	543	4,882
Ryerson	4,372	548	4,920
Brock	4,351	571	4,922
Nipissing	4,130	820	4,950
Simon Fraser	4,443	513	4,956
Saskatchewan (Science)	4,509	454	4,963
Windsor	4,268	700	4,968
Waterloo	4,384	597	4,981
Alberta	4,537	505	5,042
Regina (Arts)	4,551	500	5,051
Victoria	4,411	645	5,056
Trent	4,372	708	5,080
Lethbridge	4,280	830	5,110
Queen's	4,382	732	5,114
Wilfrid Laurier	4,372	764	5,136
McMaster	4,319	818	5,137
Laval (out-of-province students)	4,851	510	5,161
Moncton	4,735	437	5,172
Calgary	4,590	590	5,180
Western	4,326	860	5,186
Regina (Science)	4,689	500	5,189
York	4,371	839	5,210
Guelph	4,372	859	5,231
Toronto	4,373	873	5,246
*UBC (Science)	4,591	660	5,251
*Montréal (out-of-province students)	4,651	600	5,251
Sherbrooke (out-of-province students)	4,914	572	5,486
UPEI	4,920	724	5,644
Bishop's (out-of-province students)	4,914	811	5,725
New Brunswick	5,246	501	5,747
Cape Breton	5,660	295	5,955
Saint Mary's (Arts)	5,580	378	5,958
Saint Mary's (Science)	5,680	378	6,058
Concordia (out-of-province students)	4,914	1,229	6,143
Mount Saint Vincent (Arts)	5,550	622	6,172
McGill (out-of-province students)	4,914	1,379	6,293
Mount Saint Vincent (Science)	5,855	622	6,477
Mount Allison	6,405	245	6,650
Dalhousie (Arts)	6,030	752	6,782
St. Francis Xavier	6,205	596	6,801
Dalhousie (Science)	6,840	752	7,592
Acadia	8,062	484	8,546

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRISTINNE MUSCHI

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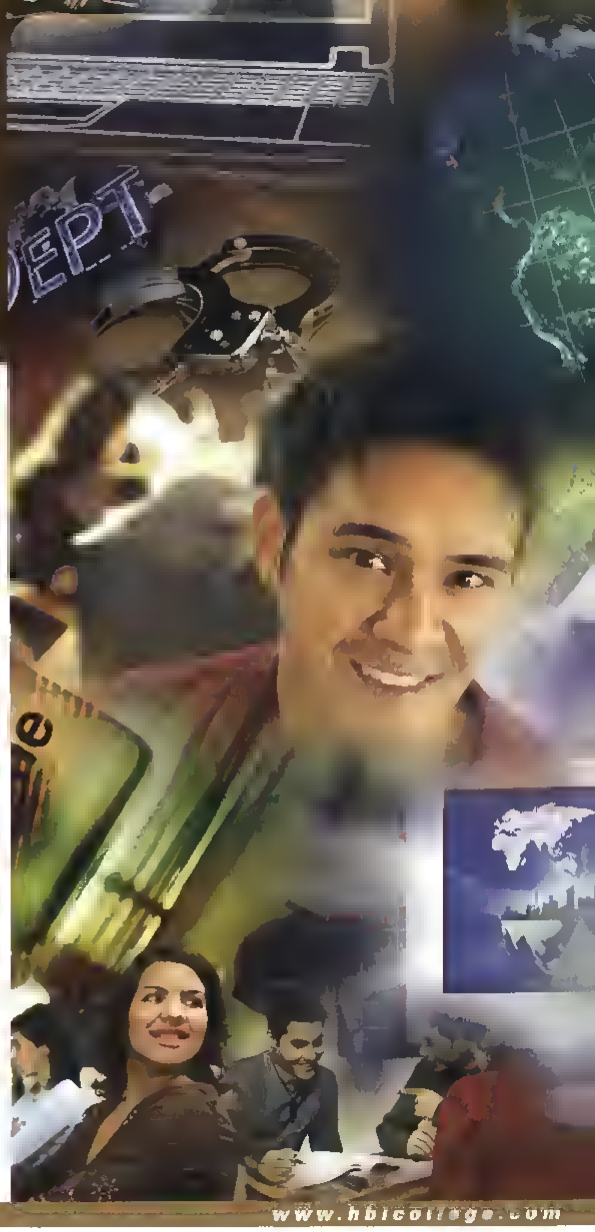

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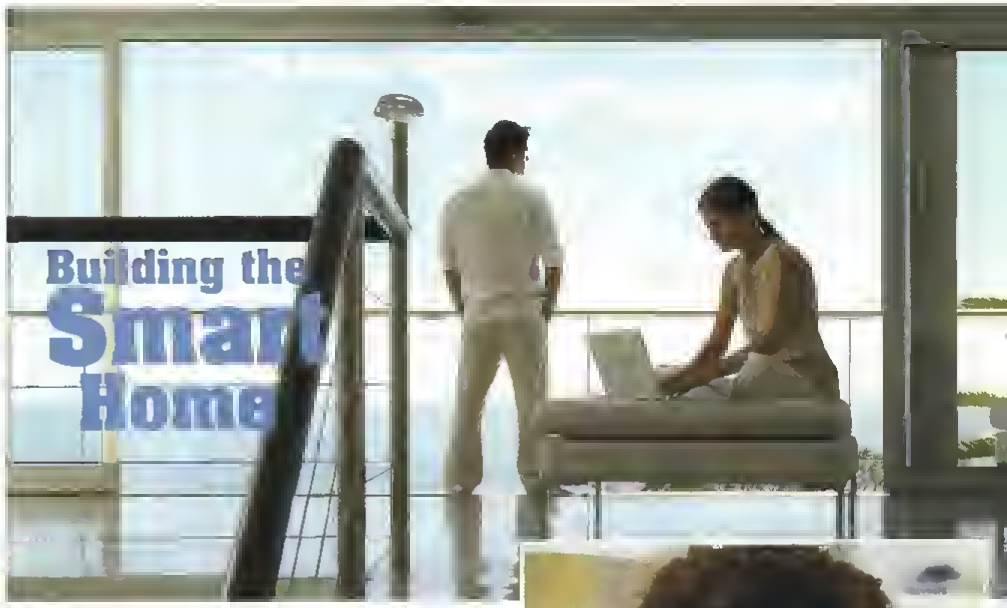

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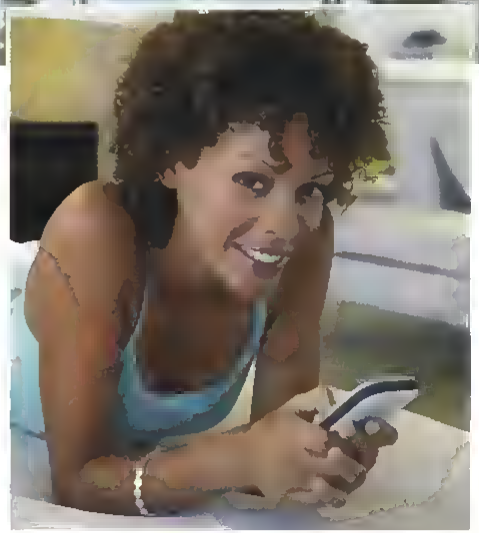

Imagine being on holidays anywhere in the world and being able to check on your home from your laptop. Or, if you forget to lower your thermostat before you leave for work, imagine logging onto a secure site to change the setting to an energy-saving level. Do you want your music to effortlessly follow you around the house? Imagine making it happen by simply pressing a touch panel or keypad.

The possibilities are virtually endless, says Matthew Grossman, CEO at Archtronics Integrated Electronics Systems, a 12-year-old Toronto-area firm offering a complete range of integrated solutions in the custom-installed electronics industry. "But we try to temper what we do with reality even though we get some requests for Jetson-type stuff."

What began as commercial applications or the toys of the wealthy homeowner are now filtering down to the average household, says Grossman. "The iPod revolution has changed the way people experience their music and has thus driven people to demand similar experiences in their home. Wireless technologies have made this experience possible for more people at a reasonable cost."

"What began as commercial applications or the toys of the wealthy homeowner are now filtering down to the average household"

What exactly should a 21st century home have? An array of systems, including security, audio and video, intelligent lighting and temperature control. As technology evolves, these systems have become more affordable. On a small scale, Grossman says, the cost can run about $10 000, while a moderate system could range from $30 000 to $50 000 and an ultra-sophisticated system could run in the millions. Lighting systems, which replace "dumb" switches with "smart" switches and operate with a single keypad, run about $1 500 a room. At the top of the spectrum are the centrally controlled lighting systems where wires run from light switches to a central computerized bank of dimmer switches. In essence, Grossman explains, by pressing one button you can control the lighting for the entire home.

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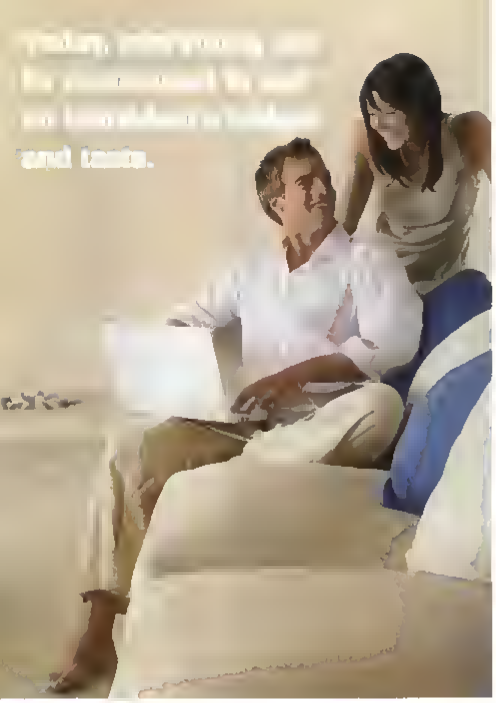

Today, everything can be customized to suit an individual's budget and taste. If money is no object, a home might have a high performance theatre or media room, while someone with a more modest budget would opt for a basic home theatre. Security features could range from an alarm system with a couple of outdoor security cameras to a deluxe system that ties in fire, carbon-monoxide and smoke detection, sprinkler systems, indoor and outdoor video surveillance and electronic gate control.

More often than not, even when a full system isn't being installed right away, new home builders are roughing in wiring for security and smart home technology for completion later. Even older houses are being retrofitted, although the cost is higher than putting in a system from scratch.

Tony Davis had all of this in mind when he built his new Toronto area home this year. The entire house operates on a multi-level Internet-based system, combining security, audio, video, lighting and temperature and humidity control and even control of window shades.

"We can wake up the kids in the morning by setting the motorized shades to slowly come up, while music begins to play and the lights gradually go on," he says. Before bed, Davis can hit one button on a touchpad and turn out every light in the house. While he's away on business, Davis can check the fish in his salt-water aquarium by logging onto a secure site on his laptop. Tiny security cameras set around the house allow him to do this, as well as look in on any area of his home while he's away.

Davis used the Home Logic system, which integrates the 72 "logical" temperature zones of his house. From the practical to the aesthetic, everything in his home is controlled by various panels that are hooked into the master system. Whether it's setting the temperature for the heated floors or turning on the driveway's built-in snow melter or lowering a bank of lights and turning on music in a particular section of the house, everything is done with a push of a button. Even the water temperature of the pool and fish tank are tied in.

While tech savvy, Davis still spent a lot of time researching exactly what he wanted to automate. He worked with a consulting firm that specializes in audio and video. While his experience was a good one, he warns that because integrated home automation is a relatively new field, you should make sure you know who you're working with. "Quotes are all over the map and there are a lot of horror stories out there," he says. "Another [piece of advice]: Beware of gadgets only the consulting companies can program. If you want to automate your home, educate yourself first. Don't rely on your architect or contractor or interior designer either. The field is too new and very few people understand it."

Securing your Environment

As urban crime rates and property values rise, homeowners have paid much more attention to security. Simple standalone alarms have given way to complex systems designed to alert homeowners to intruders, fires and carbon monoxide dangers. Security cameras outside and inside the home have become a standard feature for many homeowners.

The home security industry has exploded, says Stan Diatchkov, marketing manager for Alarm Factory Inc., an authorized ADT dealer in Toronto. The industry has an annual growth rate of up to 10%, while Alarm Factory has been posting 25% annual growth.

"Our business has changed dramatically over the past 15 years," says Diatchkov. "It's not just the wealthy wanting to sleep soundly. We have customers at every socio-economic level. The biggest misconception about security is the expense. You can get monitoring for $25 to $30 a month, which includes a basic system installed at no cost to the consumer."

"If you want to automate your home, educate yourself first."

ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

A security camera system can cost as little as $2,000. This includes an LCD monitor, months of recordings and remote Internet access for 24/7 viewing. Everything is kept on a hard drive off-site, so if an intruder takes the system, we have all of the recordings.

Alarm Factory is finding spy technology a booming market (especially in malls and retail outlets), according to Diatchkov. "People want to see what's going on while they're away. We are capable of installing pin-hole cameras in clocks, picture frames, toys, and even in sprinkler systems. These cameras are so small they can't be seen with the naked eye and some of them have a tiny wireless transmitter that can send the video feed hundreds of feet away."

High-Definition Revolution

Just three years ago, high definition (HD) television was still in its infancy. The prohibitive cost of HD TVs and a lack of programming discouraged many consumers from investing in the technology. Things have changed – costs have come down dramatically and there's now plenty of HD programming. Most providers are offering at least 25 HD channels, including majors sports and cable specialty channels, and it continues to grow.

"It's no longer if and when HD is coming, it's here now," says Michael Neujahr, product training manager for Sony Canada.

Today, 30% of Sony's TV sales are Full HD, while close to 100% are High Definition. Full HD, which is 1,080 lines of vertical resolution, offers the highest level of picture detail, depth and crispness. Compare this to a standard cathode-ray picture tube with 480 lines of resolution.

Sony is in the midst of a push towards Full HD and educating viewers is a big part of it, says Neujahr. "When consumers go out to buy a high-def TV, they need to understand that there's a range of picture quality starting at 720 lines of resolution. Most of the programming is done at the highest level of 1,080. Why buy a lesser level of HD and not enjoy its maximum potential?"

Neujahr tells consumers to make sure the technology works for them. "Understand what you're buying and make sure it's properly hooked up. I've seen cases where people invest in a high def TV and haven't had it properly installed. We're educating our sales people and the consumer about this. We want our customers to have the best viewing experience."

This fall, Sony is launching 13 Full HD models, ranging from $3,000 to $8,000. Adds Neujahr: "This is our breakout year where we've introduced a mass-market price point."

Simplifying your HD viewing

Fighting for the TV remote could be a thing of the past.

Bell ExpressVu has launched an advanced dual-tuner HD TV satellite receiver and Personal Video Recorder (PVR) that that gives viewers the option of recording multiple shows at the same time on more than one TV. This means you can record two shows while you watch a third pre-recorded program or watch one live program while you record another program.

The 9200 HD PVR Plus can record up to 180 hours of standard programming and 25 hours of high-definition shows. The combination of satellite PVR and HD TV technology is ideal for the home theatre. The technology is easy to use and lets you pause, rewind and replay live TV, as well as record, replay, stop, fast forward and fast rewind high definition and standard definition programming. The 9200 can be rented for $25 month or purchased for $599.

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APPARENTLY YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE BUYING MACLEAN'S.

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Extending your home network

Until now, even with wireless Internet, you're not totally mobile. If you move too far away from your connection and router, the signal weakens.

That limitation will soon be a thing of the past. Bell World will be the first retailer in Canada to offer a device to extend your home network to places where Wi-Fi and traditional network cabling can't reach.

HomePlug is a simple technology that allows users to connect to the Internet from any AC outlet in the home. Devices like network-based printers, video-game consoles, media players and IP cameras can now connect to the Internet from any room in the house. It's compatible with all service providers: all you need is a high-speed broadband connection. A user with an existing broadband connection and a router would need two HomePlug adapters to expand their home network – one for the router and one for the device they wish to connect.

High-capacity camcording

Think about recording a special occasion without worrying you'll run out of room. JVC has a new line of hard disk drive camcorders that will do just that. The Everio G Series camcorders are easy to use and record up to 37 hours for 30 GB models. It's available in different models offering a wide variety of options. The large-capacity built-in drive can store hours of video and thousands of still digital images.

Making Your Entertainment Transferable

Moving your digital entertainment around the house has never been easier. Intel's Viiv (pronounced to rhyme with "five") technology-based media centre computers let users download, record and even share movies or music between computers and televisions.

Viiv works with a variety of consumer electronics devices, online services and software across a single wired or wireless network. The beauty of Viiv is that it's an entertainment hub, with its own built-in TV tuner to digitally capture a show, plus PVR and CD functions. A Viiv based machine eliminates the clutter of several stacked devices and bundles of wires. It even allows all of your home computers to share the digital entertainment. Doug Cooper, country manager for Intel Canada, says that since so many homes have more than one computer, the ability to easily share digital entertainment files is a must.

If you want to stream music, TV shows or movies from a Viiv-based computer in one room to your TV and stereo in another room, simply connect a special Viiv compatible digital media adaptor, available for the holiday season at major electronics retailers, to your wireless network and your TV and stereo. The adaptor has an easy-to-use Simple Network Setup and also builds cataloguing so you can quickly and easily find your entertainment.

Because it's all wireless, the kids could be watching a movie they downloaded and have streamed from the Viiv-based computer to the TV in the family room, while at the same time, parents are listening to music streamed from the same computer to the stereo in another room.

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SGT. LOU PENNEY/CANADIAN DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

THE EXIT STRATEGY

Victory in Afghanistan means understanding what we can achieve there, then sticking to it

BY SEAN M. MALONEY

"What's your exit strategy?" Tom Arnold demands from Arnold Schwarzenegger as he's pursued by terrorist goons in the movie *True Lies*. "I'm going to walk right out the front gate," Schwarzenegger calmly replies.

Exit strategy—an American entrepreneurial term from the fast and loose 1990s, implying do your business and get out quick before something bad happens. Exit strategy, a term that reflected the Clinton administration's fear of getting deeply engaged in the conflicts of that decade—Somalia, Rwanda, Bosnia—and meant no involvement without an exit strategy. Now we're hearing the term bandied about with reference to Canada's operations in Afghanistan.

This sort of debate is new for Canadians, as novel as our deep engagement in a counter-insurgency campaign in southwest Asia. Throughout the Cold War, there was no need for an exit strategy. UN peacekeeping was designed to freeze regional conflicts in place to discourage Communist infiltration of the Third World so the Cold War wouldn't go hot. In West Germany, Canada's soldiers served for more than four decades in an armed deterrent role opposite Soviet forces occupying eastern Europe. The exit strategy, which amounted to preventing mushroom clouds from appearing over allied cities, defied concrete explanation at the time. In the Balkans, starting in 1992, Canadians served with the European Union, UN and NATO missions for 14 years: there was no defined exit strategy. It was only in the late 1990s that Canadian governments looked towards time-limited military commitments—and mostly for budgetary reasons. The plethora of "one offs" included East Timor, Central African Republic, and Eritrea/Ethiopia. Leaving Somalia was dictated by the international community's decision to withdraw entirely from that country, not by a Canadian exit strategy.

For the most part, Canada has never really adopted the concept of exit strategy. We have persevered in the conflicts that really matter to us, from the Boer War to the Balkan wars; the grab bag of more limited UN peace missions in the 1990s, as far-flung as they were, did not require Canadian perseverance.

Any discussion of a Canadian exit strategy for Afghanistan must take into account the reasons we are there in the first place, what we hope to accomplish given the current situation—which has evolved over the course of five years—and how we get there from here. All of this must be balanced against what resources Canada can bring to bear and how those resources are balanced with other national requirements. This is the essence of strategy.

Canada is al-Qaeda's enemy. We stand for everything they hate, and they cannot be negotiated with—negotiations are neither acceptable nor desired, on either side. The war in Afghanistan is one of several conflicts that fit under the umbrella of the global war against the al-Qaeda movement, what is now referred to as "The Long War". Afghanistan is but one front. In the Second World War there were operations in Europe, the Atlantic, Pacific, North Africa and so on, but Canada

SUGGESTING CANADA won't be targeted if we remain uninvolved is a view born of fear

committed mostly to the Atlantic and Europe. In this case, Canada has chosen to focus on Afghanistan and not Iraq, the Philippines, the Horn of Africa, nor the streets of Madrid or London.

Al-Qaeda sees Canada as an enemy, and Osama bin Laden himself has identified us as one of the major obstacles preventing the Taliban's reacquisition of Afghanistan. Suggesting Canada won't be targeted if we remain uninvolved is a view born of fear. In a war with such a strong psychological component, fear can be fatal—consider the way Spanish politics were manipulated by the Madrid bombings and their effect on Spain's military commitments overseas. Would Canada have retreated from Afghanistan if the al-Qaeda network in Toronto had succeeded in its mission this summer?

Afghanistan is our first victory against the al-Qaeda movement, one with both practical and psychological aspects. Al-Qaeda can no longer use the country as a base, its planned operations were completely disrupted, and our insight into the movement increased exponentially. The psychological component had two parts. First, the enemy was shocked that we could pull this operation off: they were slaves to history and thought we would never come after them after the Soviet experience in Afghanistan. A senior al-Qaeda commander noted in his internal analysis: "The Asian Corps suffers from the negative effects of sedition in Kabul that followed the conquest, the negative effects of disorganized evacuation and removal of the Arabs from the area, the negative effects of international pursuit of the Arabs in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and elsewhere, the negative effects of the Islamic shock at what happened in Afghanistan after the conquest, and the severe collapse, psychologically and in terms of morale."

Second, it was a significant morale boost for the West that was absolutely critical after the chaos of the 9/11 attacks. As the 9/11 commission so aptly demonstrated, the Clinton administration failed on numerous occasions, which in turn emboldened the al-Qaeda movement. As a senior al-Qaeda commander explained to his subordinates: "The Muslim victory in Somalia over the America [sic] has profound implications ideologically, politically and psychologically that will require lengthy studies. [It] confirmed the spurious nature of American power and that it has not recovered from the Vietnam complex. It fears getting bogged down in a real war." As do some Canadians when it comes to Afghanistan.

Next to having the Taliban and al-Qaeda in power in Afghanistan, the worst outcome would have been a power vacuum that helped radical Islamist organizations back into Afghanistan and voided our victory there. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice confirmed this line of thought on her recent Canadian visit when she said: "If you allow that kind of vacuum, if you allow a failed state in that strategic a location, you're going to pay for it." At the same time, allowing heavily armed ethnic groups to battle it out yet again in Kabul as they did in 1992-96 would have produced the same effect. The Taliban gained traction in the first place in 1996 specifically because of those conditions.

AFGHANISTAN HAS ENDURED SO MUCH DAMAGE THAT IT'S NOT A MATTER OF RECONSTRUCTION; IT IS A MATTER OF CONSTRUCTION

CANADA IS shielding efforts to build Afghan institutions by the use of military force

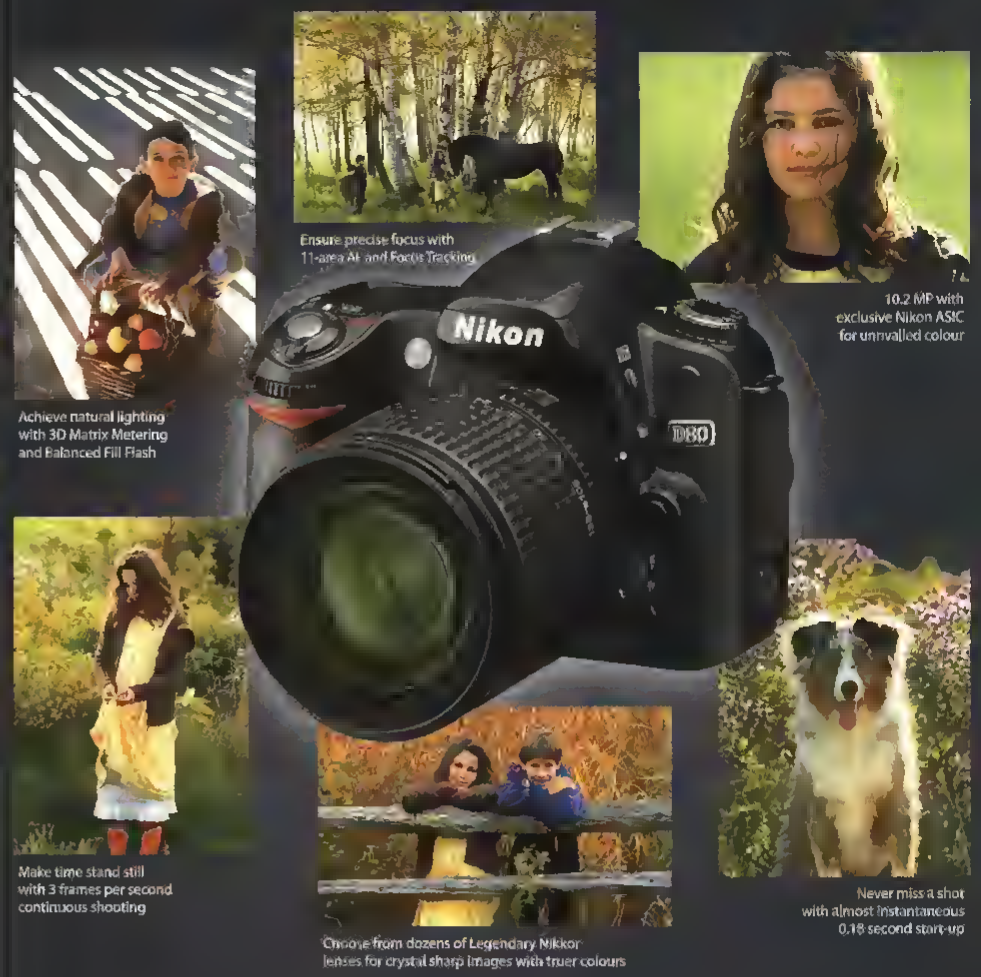
SGT. LOU PENNEY/CANADIAN DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

What, then, are the conditions for the withdrawal of the International Security Assistance Force and, thus, Canadian military forces? In broad terms, Afghanistan has to be able to protect itself from external and internal threats to its security. Afghanistan must have viable civil institutions that can provide or facilitate the basic needs for its population. Reconciliation of grievances is also an important component of the program. There are, however, numerous obstacles to meeting these conditions in the near term.

The kind of civil institutions that would handle the basic needs of people in any average small Canadian town are practically non-existent in most of Afghanistan. It is tempting to throw all of our resources into this (apparently non-violent) activity. There is a mistaken belief, however, that building civil institutions is somehow separate from building security institutions. Some think security should precede the building of civil institutions, while other critics think that only the latter ought to encompass the Canadian mission. The reality is that we need both. Canada and her allies are in fact shielding efforts to build Afghan institutions by using military forces.

At the same time, the cultural and historical challenges in the capacity building areas are immense. Afghanistan is really a confederation that has not historically had strong central government from Kabul. Canada, through its Strategic Advisory Team in Kabul, has assisted the Afghan government in formulating the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS), but some areas resent federal interference (just like some parts of Canada resented policies like the National Energy Program in the 1980s). Our counter-insurgency operations were and remain necessary to achieve a level of security in the country so that there could be International Monetary Fund "buy in" to the ANDS. Canada was a major contributor to that process, and wielded influence we would otherwise not have had without our military forces in theatre. The effort in Afghanistan is dependent on IMF resources because there is so much institutional, ecological and demographic damage from the Soviet, civil war, and Taliban periods. It is not a matter of *re*construction, it is a matter of *con*struction.

Time in Afghanistan does not have the same meaning as it does in Canada. Cutting to the chase can be culturally counterproductive, as I discovered personally on numerous occasions. How one does business is



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radically different because of the time factor. And linked to that is what we in Canada would call "corruption": tribal favouritism, kickbacks, diversion of resources through acts of nepotism, influence peddling. I once pointed out some specific examples of this on one of my early trips to an Afghan friend who had spent time in Montreal. He admonished me about Canadian corruption in the sponsorship scandal! He went on at length about Canadian motorcycle gangs and their efforts to subvert politicians. And cigarette smuggling on the Mohawk reserves.

WE MAY BE OVERDOING IT, PARTICULARLY IN THINGS SUCH AS GENDER EQUALITY PROGRAMS

WE DON'T WANT to tell Afghans how to run their country, but parts of it defy modernity

Flooding southern Afghanistan with non-governmental and aid organizations is also a double-edged sword. I once watched a Swedish woman (without a head scarf) harangue the Kandahar provincial *shura* on the issue of child marriages, demanding that it be stopped or aid would stop. I understood where she was coming from. I participated in a Village Medical Outreach operation in a remote area where Canadian and American medics had to treat a 12-year-old girl for severe rectal bleeding. She had been married the night before. But the NGO representative was completely ineffective in front of these elders, and insulted them. They left the room. Nothing was accomplished, and the incident created ill will, which had ramifications in other more important areas.

The dilemma revolves around the question of societal transformation. It is the Afghans' country and we don't want to tell them how to run it, but there are parts of that country that have defied modernity, and that interferes with the security mission. The enemy gains converts in the remote areas of the Pashtun south by telling the uneducated there that we are coming to destroy their lives and religion. When NGOs show up with modern technology and modern expectations, this can cause problems. We may be overdoing it in some areas, particularly in things like the "gender equality" programs favoured by elements in CIDA and Foreign Affairs. Everybody on the outside wants this all "fixed" now, right now.

We need the means to have gradual societal transformation that is not invasive. As a historian, I favour a Roman approach: roads and aqueducts. Water is basic to everything that happens in an arid region like southern Afghanistan, and we can't go wrong by helping people get it and use it. Roads will open social and economic communication between the remote and built-up areas. The situation will evolve on its own as the rural areas adjust to the more modern cities. Those who want access to education should be able to get it and not have their teachers beheaded. Remember, Canada can't stop incidents like the Dawson College shooting, so we can't reasonably expect a complete end of the violence in Afghanistan. (And just try to implement a gun registry.)

When it comes to the cities, there are two major problems. The enemy appeals to youth who have no skills and no jobs. Young men are provided with money, a motorcycle, an assault rifle and are promised excitement. To stave this off, pilot programs introduced by American forces in the province of Zabul included the construction of a trade school with American soldiers, many of them reservists, assisting in instruction. Basic tools are provided to the graduates, and with all of the construction going on there is plenty of work. Programs like this need to be more widespread in the south: they're not invasive and will have positive benefits to stability. Of course, the problems of tribalism and nepotism in hiring will remain, which makes effective governance critical.

Effective governance starts in the cities and radiates outwards (another Roman attribute). Opportunists already occupy many key positions and their agenda has little or nothing to do with stability. It will be a slow and difficult task to build up a pool of effective administrators who can manage a provincial government. We are not there yet.

Nor are we imposing democracy in the more rural areas. We don't need to: it already exists, but in a form that is unfamiliar to us. It is like ancient Greece in some respects. The local *shuras* and similar tribal, district, and regional councils are a form of participatory democracy. There is no need to interfere with this system, nor should we by linking aid and construction to political and gender equality change at the local level. That is a stick best not used at all.

Indeed, the gender equality issue and the poppy eradication program pushed by the U.S. State Department and others is counterproductive to our counter insurgency efforts. Both undermine support for the government in rural areas. The Taliban, for example, send in mullahs to convince the rural people that we are there to ruin their livelihoods and destroy their society. And if we push both of these programs too far, the Taliban will gain more recruits. This schizophrenia in the international community's approach was the underlying current to the high levels of violence encountered by British forces in poppy-rich Helmand province this summer.

The most significant problem in the Afghan effort is the slow build up of the Afghan national security forces. In any society, there should be a distinction between soldiers and policemen. Soldiers fight the enemy, police handle law and order by fighting crime. There is overlap and co-operation because the enemy uses crime to further his insurgent aims, but having the army use military force to police the population is not viable, nor is using police to combat armed and organized enemies.

The Afghan National Army has been slow to build up. There are many reasons for this: cultural and language barriers, disagreements over what model to follow (French? American? Indian?), and provision of weapons. Pay is a huge problem, which has spinoff effects on corruption. Then there is dependency on American air power as a solution when the situation on the ground deteriorates. Some units fight well, like 209 Corps soldiers did in the Zharey district of Kandahar over the summer. Others do not. Canada plays a small role in training the ANA, but the Canadian military training contingent punches well above its weight, and needs to be reinforced. We need to invest in this more. Our soldiers

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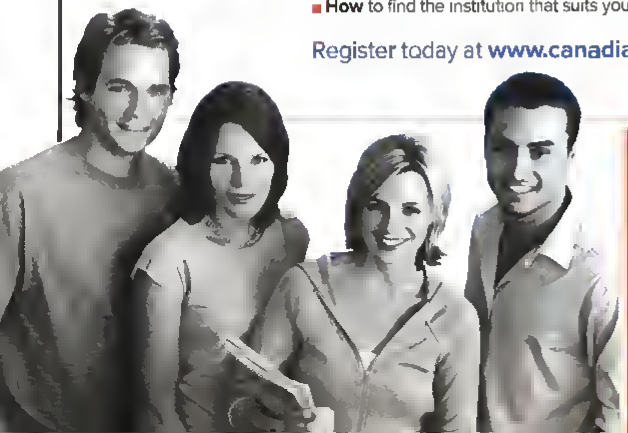

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SCHIZOPHRENIA

DO YOU REALLY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT?

RIGHT? WRONG!

Schizophrenia means "split personality" – two or more personalities within the same person

Schizophrenia is a chronic disease just like diabetes or Alzheimer's. The illness most often strikes a person during their late teens or early 20s and affects people in every cultural and economic group. Early warning signs can include social withdrawal, depression, difficulty thinking/concentrating and change in sleeping patterns.

RIGHT? WRONG!

Schizophrenia is rare – very few people are affected by it.

1 in 100 people will develop schizophrenia in their lifetime. In Canada, that's about 300,000 people. But the illness deeply "affects" so many more if you consider the impact on family, friends and the community.

RIGHT? WRONG!

Schizophrenia is untreatable – once a person has it, they are beyond help.

Schizophrenia is treatable. Medication is the cornerstone of treatment combined with counseling, family and community supports. Appropriate housing, employment opportunities, and income support are also important in the recovery process.

RIGHT? WRONG!

Getting help right away can't really make much of a difference

Getting help early is vital, as with any illness. The earlier that schizophrenia is diagnosed, the sooner treatment can begin - leading to a better outcome and faster recovery.

RIGHT? WRONG!

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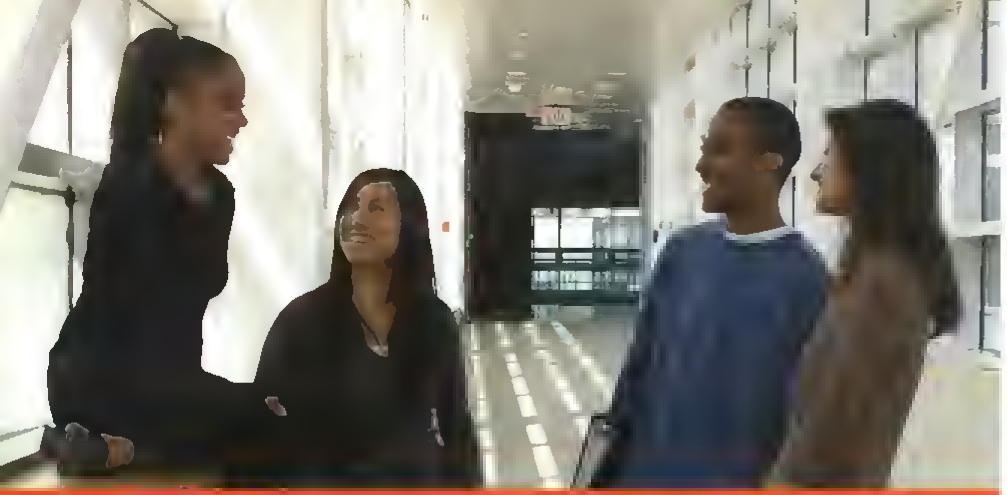

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are excellent trainers and need to accompany their Afghan counterparts on operations Trust is everything

The various Afghan police forces are a collective disaster Underpaid, co opted by the Taliban, used by provincial governors for their own purposes, under-equipped and under-trained, the police are or should be a key link between the government and the people In one district I visited, the people feared the police more than the insurgents An emergency police transformation program was implemented this summer with a Canadian general in the lead, but this will take some time to have an effect The increase of RCMP trainers in Kandahar province from two to 10 is a good move, but more needs to be done to professionalize the police And then one needs a judicial system to go along with the police, an area that has been mishandled by Italy, which adopted that development pillar

The ANA and the Afghan National Police should be Afghanistan's shield against violence When they reach the point where they can be, or when the Taliban see the futility of their struggle and reject al Qaeda manipulation of their cause, we can reduce our military footprint We can't back off now. Challenging the enemy on all levels on all fronts, is a critical psychological component of this war and Canadians are doing just that

Critics demand a time frame We learned in the 1990s, however, that publicly setting a firm exit date was an invitation for violent forces to wait us out and start again This occurred in Somalia, which led to a decade of later clan violence The NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR) in Bosnia lasted a year, and was relieved by the Stabilization Force (SFOR), which itself was supposed to last 18 months NATO leaders recognized near the end of SFOR's mandate in 1998 that the ethnic factions were merely biding their time for a second round of violence, and extended SFOR until 2005—until the conditions for ethnic violence no longer existed

Afghanistan is, of course, a different and more complex problem Any exit strategy will have to take into account the fact that violence is supported from areas in Pakistan, and Pakistan exhibits different and varying degrees of stability At some point we may have to expand operations into Balochistan, in conjunction with Pakistani counter insurgency efforts, before the situation improves The international effort to assist Afghanistan will last at least a decade, probably two It is impossible to predict what levels of violence will be encountered during this period

At this point, the enemy is trying to find ways to disrupt the international effort in Afghanistan This takes many forms a terrorist suicide bombing campaign is calculated to undermine international support for intervention, as well as erode the morale of the security forces Guerrilla operations have attempted to seize ground and draw in Operation Enduring Freedom and ISAF forces to generate casualties Taliban mullahs attempt to proselytize the rural villages in a political/religious mobilization campaign In the course of these operations, a certain skittishness has been generated among some NATO powers, who are reluctant to back up those allies who have been bleeding in Kandahar, Helmand, Uruzgan and Zabul provinces

Some commentators are even using a Maoist insurgency model from the 1960s to make the argument that the enemy has shifted from terrorism to guerrilla operations, and is using more conventional techniques—that the enemy is succeeding, in other words, and we are losing The reality is that the enemy uses these techniques in combination, not in a linear fashion, and we have, thus far, met them on each plane And the enemy has been thwarted each time The insurgents do not control the physical terrain, and we continue to challenge them on the psychological terrain both in the field in Afghanistan and in Canada

A lack of perspective in Canada is a continuing problem False analogies to the Soviet period (and even Vietnam) even figure in parliamentary committee debate "the Soviets and the British couldn't succeed, therefore we can't," one MP told me We are not trying to do what the Soviets were attempting, but let's look at the numbers anyway The Soviets killed two million Afghan civilians using indiscriminate firepower and socialist societal transformation techniques Soviet losses from their illegal intervention in 1979 to their withdrawal in 1989, we now believe, were around 28,000 killed over 10 years, or 2,800 per year NATO and OEF losses over a five year period are around 500 We are not employing indiscriminate firepower, there are comparatively few civilian casualties, and we are there in support of a legitimate, elected government There is no real comparison

PUBLICLY SETTING an exit date is an invitation for the enemy to wait us out

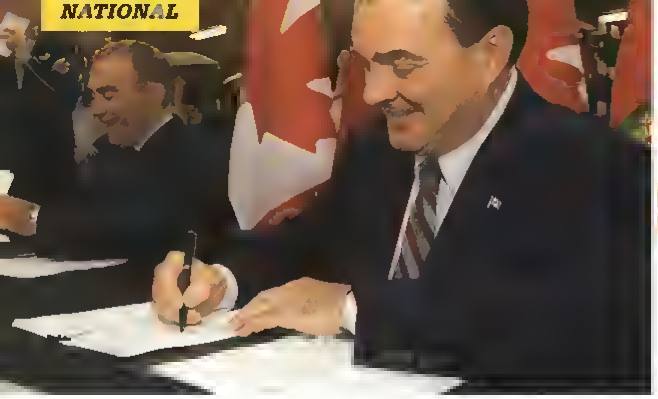
SGT DENNIS POWER/CANADIAN DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

CANADA WILL BE WALKING OUT THE FRONT GATE WHEN WE FEEL THE JOB IS DONE, NOT SLINKING OUT A BACK WINDOW

Many seek to use numbers of Canadian dead to make their case Canadians are being killed, therefore we are losing Some NATO-member contingents rarely leave their camps and take no casualties, but they have little or no effect on the war Canadians are aggressive, use their initiative, and challenge the enemy in the villages and in the mountains They take casualties on these operations and they generate a disproportionate number of enemy casualties and destroy scarce enemy resources (until they can be resupplied from their bases in Pakistan). Since security is a precondition for development, it's more than fair to say the enemy is not succeeding in Afghanistan

Canada will be walking out the front gate when we feel the job is done, not slink out some dark back window when the going gets rough After the disasters at Hong Kong and Dieppe during the Second World War, it was difficult if not impossible to see victory three and four years later in 1945 In the dark days of 1995, we never believed that peace could be achieved in Bosnia, yet in 2004 the situation was stable enough for Canada to withdraw We are in a stronger position in Afghanistan against our enemies now than we were in the Balkans five years in, and during the first years of the Second World War let's not throw it away and say it was all in vain because of ignorance and fear M

Sean Maloney teaches Contemporary Warfare at the Royal Military College, and is the author of Enduring the Freedom A Rogue Historian in Afghanistan



JIM FLAHERTY wants productivity on the agenda; a Bombardier jet plant (above)

A crisis, or a bore?

The Tories can't decide if tumbling productivity belongs on the agenda

BY JOHN GEDDES • Ottawa's annual fall fiscal update tends to be a pretty dry affair But this year's will be worth watching for more than the usual forecasts on economic growth (likely to disappoint) and the federal surplus (likely to astound, again) Just as important—or more, when it comes to sorting out what the next election is going to be fought over—will be the signal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty sends about a new Conservative plan for boosting Canada's long-term prosperity Informed observers detect a high-level struggle among Tories over the issue—with Flaherty pushing his competitiveness agenda and strategists close to Prime Minister Stephen Harper shoving back "I've met with people in the Prime Minister's Office," says Jayson Myers, chief economist of the business group Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters, "and competitiveness isn't on the tips of their tongues."

Myers says the message coming from Harper's aides is that making Canada more competitive is a theme that falls flat with voters—so don't expect much on it from a minority government braced to go to the polls sometime next year Yet Flaherty seems eager to get on with tackling the core problems, arguing in his budget last May that Canada's current economic strength masks "difficult deeper adjustments" ahead Noting that Canadian productivity lags behind most other industrialized economies, including the U S , he vowed to devise a plan to catch up But how much of that policy package he is ready to unveil—or will be allowed to by Harper—remains to be seen Asked last week about the status of the competitiveness agenda, Flaherty said "We're doing a lot of work, and I look forward to having the opportunity to put the plan forward, I hope at the same time as the fiscal update—but we'll have to see"

His uncertainty is striking, given that the update is due this month Don Drummond, TD Bank Financial Group's influential chief economist and a former top Finance Department official, says the Tories' willingness to champion serious economic reform is in doubt He points to Flaherty's brief sketch of the productivity problem in his first budget as a promising, but strangely isolated, indication of interest "It seemed at odds with the Conservative election platform," Drummond noted, "in which they didn't even have an economic platform" Like many economists, he dismissed the economic pledges the Tories ran on last time—notably cutting the GST—as vote-chasing gimmicks But it's no mystery why a more serious effort is seen as too depressing by campaign tacticians Canada's productivity standing among OECD countries has fallen from third in the 1960s to 17th today And, as Drummond says, talk of turning that around "is interpreted as making people work harder for less pay"

Still, there are signs that at least some Tories are trying to inject serious economic ideas into the government's policy repertoire Flaherty emphasizes the traditional Conservative bent for less regulation and lower taxes, but also flags education and infrastructure for spending These are hardly novel ideas New twists might emerge from Industry Minister Maxime Bernier's review of science and technology policy Bernier is also tasked with replacing the suspended Technology Partnerships Canada program—a multi-billion-dollar support scheme for industries, like aerospace, that tend to be heavily subsidized everywhere—with something more acceptable to critics of corporate handouts Meanwhile, business groups are pushing for broad new tax breaks Nancy Hughes Anthony, president of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, suggests making research and development credits refundable, so firms that innovate could cash in on tax incentives even before turning a profit

Much depends on grabbing Harper's interest When the Prime Minister talks about the economy, though, he tends to boast about Canada's resource treasure trove, not lecture on its productivity shortcomings "For international investors, the most important sector story I have to tell is energy," he said recently "Canada is an emerging energy superpower" But his preference for touting the oil and gas endowment of his Alberta base might soon be overshadowed by news of an export slump in the country's manufacturing heartland A weakening U S economy is inflicting pain on central Canadian exporters, prompting the Royal Bank of Canada to recently revise its forecast for Ontario's growth this year down to a near-recessionary 1 5 per cent The ominous short-term outlook for Ontario and Quebec, where federal elections tend to be won or lost, could heighten economic anxiety among voters there Maybe that will help Flaherty's chances of slipping a plan for shoring up Canada's future ability to compete into the Tory election handbook M

THE ISSUE IN...

THE LONG ARM OF THE LAW ISN'T THAT LONG

"It doesn't make sense to me that you would hold me accountable for resolving something that is way, way beyond any scope that I could have Our job is to preserve the peace, deal with offences, and bring those who transgress the laws of the land to justice"—Julian Fantino, the recently appointed Ontario Provincial Police chief, on expectations that his force will resolve the Caledonia occupation by First Nations members

FRANK GUNN/CP RYAN REMIORZ/CP

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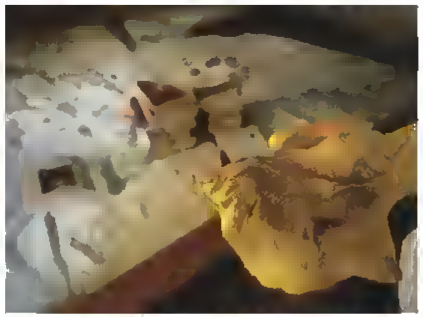
GATHERING DUST

Health Canada wants to survey the bunnies beneath your bed

BY MICHAEL FRISCOLANTI • Health Canada wants to drop by your house and dust the coffee table. And your living room floor. And if you're lucky, maybe even that hard-to-reach corner under the bed. They promise not to stay too long, and when they're finished, they won't hand you a bill. Just let them keep a few dust bunnies and they'll call it even.

The feds have dubbed it—as only a bureaucrat could—the Canadian House Dust Survey, a four year, $1.5 million project that will measure the dangers lurking on the tips of our brooms. It will begin this winter with a few random knocks at the door—*You want a clump of what from my house?*—and it won't end until 1,040 people from coast to coast agree to donate a sample or two in the name of science. Privacy will be respected, of course. Only the stranger standing in your doorway will know just how badly you need a Swiffer.

Don't be embarrassed. Every home in Canada—not just yours—could use a good dusting. In fact, recent research has revealed that even the tiniest dustballs are laced with hazardous chemicals that have been linked to all sorts of health problems. "The initial reaction is shock," says Beverley Thorpe, the director of Clean Production Action, a Montreal-based consumer advocacy group. "The first question we always hear is 'How did it get there?' And the second is 'Should I be a better vacuumer?'" It wouldn't hurt. Tossing that old carpet may not be a bad idea, either. But as Thorpe says, a lifetime of sweeping will not dispose of the elephant in the room. "Until manufacturers stop using these chemicals, we are always going to have this problem."



HOUSEHOLD DUST is harbouring hazardous chemicals

Last year, Thorpe's organization examined dozens of dust samples south of the border, discovering traces of 35 toxic chemicals—from plastic softeners to pesticides—that are found in everyday products, such as Teflon, vinyl flooring, and even tablecloths. At the same time, Miriam Diamond, a University of Toronto geography professor, published a separate study that found household dust to be the prime source of exposure to brominated flame retardants, a class of chemicals that many scientists believe leads to serious developmental problems, including attention-deficit-hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Procter & Gamble couldn't buy better advertising.

But don't overreact, Diamond warns. The floors might be a bit dirty, and those sticky plastic toys are probably loaded with dust, but it's still safe to let your baby crawl around the house. "Most moms are so stressed right now anyways—and it's mostly moms who do the dusting, not dads—so let's not freak out people even more," she says. "You don't need to be Molly Maid perfect. What we should do is prudently act on the indications that there are some nasty chemicals in the dust, and move towards removing those nasty chemicals." Besides, she says, our cleaning products might pose more of a health threat than our dust. "Everyone is wondering 'Why high asthma rates? Why all these allergies?' And you've probably heard the hypothesis saying that we're too clean. So I'm not sure that we should be going around with our Swiffers, and I know for sure that we shouldn't be using all this antibacterial crap, because that is just going to make the problem way worse. So what we should be doing is pumping money into Environment Canada to properly adjudicate under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act what should and shouldn't be allowed in products."

That might take a while. Health Canada hopes to finish its survey by 2010. M

MARK PETERSON/CORBIS

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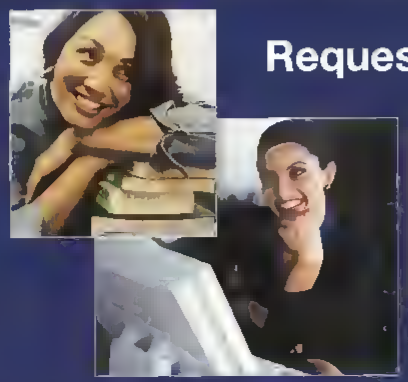

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MY VISIT WITH THE PRESIDENT

Getting asked to the Pentagon and the White House was an honour, this Maclean's columnist writes, but it was also 'disheartening'

BY MARK STEYN

"I ran into a kid the other day who used to work here," mused George W. Bush, "and he goes to a famous law school, and he said, 'The problem, Mr. President, is people don't believe we're at war.' I not only believe we're at war, I *know* we're at war."

It's not something previous commanders-in-chief have had to point out, and the President's curious situation might have taxed even the leaders whose busts adorn the Oval Office—Lincoln, Churchill, Eisenhower. To some Americans, Mr. Bush is a wartime president engaged in the same scale of existential struggle as that eminent trio. To others, the "wartime" is largely a concoction of the President: there's no war, except for the photo-op gone awry the neo-cons chose to stage in Iraq. To others—supporters of the wartime President back in the early days—it's a slightly different problem: Mr. Bush may be in war mode, but the war itself isn't. There was a sense, between 9/11 and the fall of Baghdad, that the United States was making up for lost time. Now time ticks on, in Iran and elsewhere.

In Washington last week on the book plug circuit, I got the call from various high-ups to lunch at the Pentagon with Donald Rumsfeld and General Pace, and a couple of days later to swing by the White House and see the President. And, as I happened to be in D.C., I thought why not? I don't mean to sound disrespectful—it was a great honour to be the only foreigner in the room aside from the bust of Sir Winston—but it can be disheartening to have too much face time with the movers and shakers, especially when there doesn't seem to be that much moving and shaking going on. In the silence of his lonely room, the armchair warrior remakes the world, across the keyboard the horizons roll. In the corridors of power, alas, he discovers all the reasons why the grand schemes can't be accomplished. I forget who it was at the Pentagon who said that Congress always takes away money for things you want to do and gives you money for things you don't want to do. Oh, hang on, it was everybody.

Anyway, the President had requested the company of a handful of kindred spirits from the columnar crowd in order to lay out his thinking on Iraq and beyond. One assumed there were some low political motives not unconnected with recent polls and a looming rendezvous with the people's verdict next Tuesday. But it was striking how non-electoral the discussion was. Mr. Bush never once referred to the Democrats. They're obsessed with defeating Bush, he's obsessed with defeating "the extremists"—by which he means the enemy, not Nancy Pelosi and Howard Dean.

Still, for a broadly supportive group, we were somewhat tetchy. CNBC's Larry Kudlow wanted something big and rousing. When some dread State Department concept like "sanctions" or "resolution" passed the presidential lips, Mr. Bush would glance warily at the *Washington Post*'s Charles Krauthammer. He recalled a previous visit in which the columnist had queried whether the administration was going to get "mired in diplomacy." Bush savoured the phrase, enunciating the syllables. "Mired in dip-lo-ma-cee," he said, as if it were the forlorn hook of some country ballad. "I think that's what you were wondering."

"I usually do," said Krauthammer, dryly.

The President had begun his remarks by saying that "we need to be on the offence all the time." And, for those of us who agree, that's part of the problem. "You say you need to be on the offence all the time and stay on the offence," I began. "Isn't the problem that the American people were solidly behind this when you went in and you toppled the Taliban, when you go in and you topple Saddam. But when it just seems to be a kind of thankless semi-colonial policing defensive operation with no end—I mean, where is the offence in this? Instead of talking to Syria, can't Syria get some payback for sending all these guys over the

PRESIDENT Bush is a far-sighted guy, writes Steyn

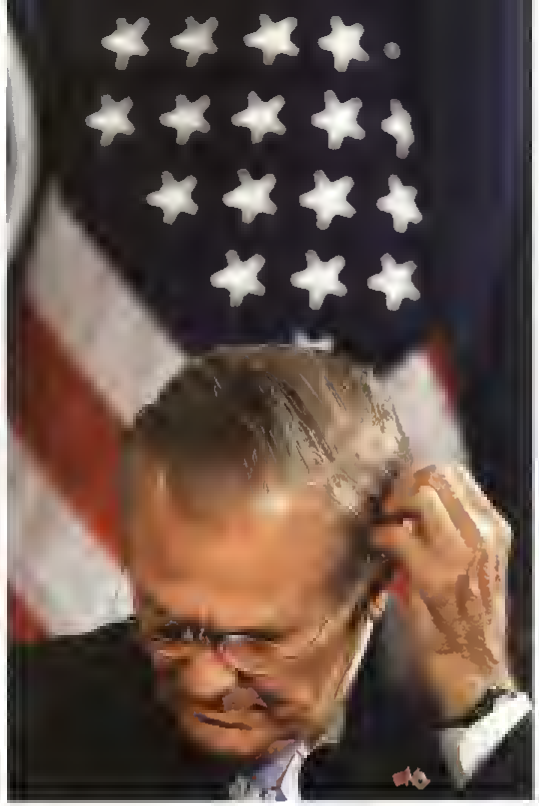
GEORGE HERBERT/AP

border to subvert Iraq? Shouldn't Syria be getting subverted in return?"

"Now you're thinking," said the President, and laughed. When I'd put a similar suggestion to the secretary of defense two days earlier, Mr. Rumsfeld's eye had flickered with the old flinty gleam from the glory-day press conferences of late 2001/2002. "That's an interesting idea," he said. Both men were humouring me, needless to say. They considered it long ago and either rejected it as politically too complicating, or they're doing it but in some below-the-radar way. And the latter doesn't solve the perception problem—that the American people would value some evidence that their side is not merely hunkered down in defensive operations in Iraq.

"First of all, we are on the offence," the President insisted. "It's frustrating, however, because you're right, it's the perception that this great military power full of decent people is just getting picked off and nothing is happening." He pointed out that's not the case—that the insurgents are dogged by U.S. forces, hunted down, and killed in very large numbers. "A thousand of the enemy killed," he said of one recent engagement. "It's happening, you just don't know it. And there's no scorecard." Or, rather, there's only a one-sided scorecard: it's American military deaths and Iraqi civilian casualties that make the news. As for Damascus, he wandered off into mired-in-diplomacy-speak: "Syria needs to know that there are other people who are interested in isolating them economically than the United States, and we're working toward that end..."

Good luck with that. Syria is a useful way of looking at what's changed these last three years. A few weeks after the fall of Saddam, I stood on the Iraq-Syrian border with members of the Third Infantry Division and we joked about how nervous Boy Assad's border guards must be feeling these days. They were twitchy times for Assad. In short order, he found himself under pressure to get his foot off Lebanon's windpipe, and the other Arab dictators were quietly suggesting that, while they didn't like this cockamamie Bush plan to remake the map of the Middle East, if the Great Satan was determined to go ahead and he needed a pilot program, they weren't averse to him knocking off Assad. You get the feeling Syria's dictator is sleeping better than he has in a while.



BUSH SAVOURED THE PHRASE. 'MIRED IN DIP-LO-MA-CEE,' HE ENUNCIATED, AS IF IT WERE THE FORLORN HOOK OF SOME COUNTRY BALLAD.

The Commander-in-Chief doesn't micromanage Iraq. We were sitting on the sofas in the Oval Office and he waved his hand toward the President's desk on the other side of the room and reminded us of the famous photographs of Lyndon Johnson poring over maps of Vietnam and picking out targets. This chief won't make that mistake, rightly concerning himself with the bigger picture. It was said of Ronald Reagan that he won the Cold War "without firing a shot," which makes it sound less of a war. But in advanced Western democracies it's the non-shot-firing aspects of war that are hardest to get right—maintaining popular support, identifying strategic goals that can withstand the nightly barrage of the media defeatists and the default torpor of government agencies and multilateral gabfests. Musing on the enemy, Secretary Rumsfeld told me, "The people you're up against have brains, and they don't have bureaucracies," as if the two are mutually incompatible. "They don't have states to defend, and they don't have to tell the truth, and they're able to take advantage of public opinion." I'll say. The other day, a typically gloomy TV yakfest on the "civil war"/"quagmire" was interrupted by a commercial for a dream vacation in Iraqi Kurdistan.

There's something faintly unbecoming about the terms in which the Iraq debate is conducted. News anchors talk about whether people are "for" or "against" the war, as if the citizenry are Olympic skating judges awarding marks to some prancing ninnies out on the ice. Whether we (i.e. the Western world) know it or not, we're all out on the ice, and it's getting mighty thin in places. Yet this demeaning, immature conception of war as a reality show you're bored with is said to be the key factor in polls showing big Democrat gains in Tuesday's elections. I don't believe it myself. I'd bet on the Republicans to hold both the House and Senate. President Bush is a smart, far-sighted guy engaged in the correction of 40 years of disastrous State Department stability fetishization in the Middle East and, beyond that, in an ambitious remaking of the region that no European power attempted even in the heyday of empire. Would you want to try that in a land of two-year election cycles?

"You can make a case that the centre of gravity of the war is in the United States," said Donald Rumsfeld. "I mean, you can't lose it militarily over there. The only place you can lose it is here." ■

RUMSFELD. Steyn saw the 'old flinty gleam' in his eye

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PRESIDENT HILLARY?

She's a popular senator, but how will she sell herself nationally?

BY LUIZA CH. SAVAGE • Hillary Rodham Clinton could be the first female president of the United States—that is, if women will let her. When she ran in 2000 for the hardly trailblazing role of 27th woman in the Senate, albeit the first from New York, the sisterhood nearly threw her to the wolves. Clinton knew to expect resistance from voters in the more conservative areas of upstate New York, but the reception she got from women—especially white baby boomers and moms in the suburbs—stunned the campaign. To say they had misgivings about the polished and pant-suited former first lady would be putting it charitably—"cutthroat," "self-serving" and "backstabbing" were some of the nicer names in focus groups. But Clinton persevered, and after six years in office she stands on the verge of a re-election landslide. Her approval ratings among women are in the stratospheric 70 per cent range. "She's beautiful, awesome," gushed Kelli Williams, 37, a shopper in the upstate city of Rochester where Clinton was arriving for a campaign debate. "We need strong women in the political world."

But with Clinton considering a presidential bid in 2008, will the prospect of a President Hillary elicit similar reservations as in 2000? "In 2000 she was a giant Rorschach test for so many different things," recalls Dwight Jewson, a West Coast corporate advertising consultant brought in by the Clinton campaign then to unravel women's complicated feelings about her. "People were reaching into their stereotypes about what women were." Even liberal and intellectual women "were unconsciously colluding in that stereotype about strong women—that they are cold, unfeeling, manipulative types."

For some women of her generation, Clinton wasn't feminist enough: she stuck by *him*, she was an "enabler," willing to endure humiliation to ride her philandering husband's political coattails. For others she was *too* feminist. Suburban moms found her too tough—they felt she wouldn't let them empathize with her even if they had wanted to. Transcripts of two focus groups held by Jewson's team in June 2000 were published by journalist Michael Tomasky in his book, *Hillary's Turn*. Participants said things like, "She's cold," "She's very cunning, independent." One woman complained, "You get the sense that she doesn't think like a woman. She thinks like a man." Another fretted that, "If you differ with Hillary Clinton, she is going to nail you and squash you." It added up to a perception that "she doesn't represent me as a woman." Above all, women wanted to see some vulnerability, humility, or as one said, "The human side of Hillary Clinton. We really don't know who Hillary Clinton is."

AFTER SIX YEARS in the Senate, her approval rating among women is up to 70 per cent

KEITH BEDFORD/REUTERS (TOP); TIM LARSEN/AP; JAMES ESTRIN/AP

Six years later, she has done almost nothing to reveal her "human side." She is disciplined and scripted in public—but that no longer seems to matter. Pollsters at Manhattanville College conducted in-depth polls of women's perceptions of Clinton in September 2000, and asked the same questions again this October. They reported that women's thoughts about Clinton "have changed dramatically for the positive." In 2000, more white women had an unfavourable view (47 per cent) than favourable (45 per cent), now her favourable number is up to 64 per cent. She leads her Republican opponent, former Yonkers mayor John Spencer, 67 to 22 per cent among all women, and 68 to 23 in the suburbs. She still doesn't give anyone the warm and fuzzies—only 28 per cent call her "warm and likeable"—but the most usual descriptions are "intelligent," "hard-working" and "persistent." Critics still call her things like "snake," but more common are positive spins on the earlier power-hungry image: "She fights for what she really wants. She's tough and can play with the big boys."

How did she do it? Just before her debate with Spencer in Rochester, the front page of that city's *Democrat and Chronicle* noted that in 2000 she had pledged to bring 200,000 new jobs to upstate New York. Since then, the Rochester area alone *lost* 35,000 jobs. But people were clearly grateful that she had *tried*—on jobs, and issues from Lake Ontario wave erosion to expanding markets for local produce and wines. That seems to have been enough. Anne Lloyd, a 50-year-old sales consultant, reflected on her change of heart toward Clinton at a fraying downtown Rochester shopping plaza: "I had reservations about her, that she didn't know the state, that she was opportunistic." But Clinton impressed her with attention to local economic woes in a county that had voted against her in 2000. Lloyd cited a conference where Clinton brought together oil company executives to discuss high-tech jobs in alternative energy. "She's done well. She talks about jobs a lot."

While Clinton's hyper-local approach has worked in New York, it remains to be seen how she can market herself nationwide. New York women no longer seem to believe that Clinton needs to represent them "as women" to represent them as voters. But that doesn't mean the rest of the country is ready to separate Clinton the political wonk from Clinton the woman—without finding the second half of the equation wanting.

Take Elizabeth Edwards, the matronly spouse of boyish presidential wannabe John Edwards, who ran with John Kerry in 2004 and could be one of Clinton's chief rivals for the 2008 Democratic nomination. Edwards cheerfully accompanied her husband on the campaign trail two years ago, with their two adorable late-in-life preschool children. Only after the election did she disclose she'd been diagnosed with breast cancer during the campaign. This month, Edwards spoke at a luncheon sponsored by *Ladies Home Journal*, and sounded like Clinton's baby boomer critics in 2000: "She and I are from the same generation. We both went to law school and married other lawyers, but after that we made other choices. I think my choices have made me happier. I think I'm more joyful than she is." Edwards quickly apologized—but her words evoked the culture combat days when Clinton struggled to live down her quip that she was "no Tammy Wynette standing by her man," or that she chose her career over staying home to "bake cookies."

MANY WOMEN SAID THEY WANTED TO SEE HER HUMAN SIDE. EVEN NOW, SHE STILL HASN'T SHOWN IT.

SHE WON over New Yorkers through local issues, but that won't play in a larger arena

Just as it looked like Clinton could get back to campaigning on questions of war and jobs, her opponent, Spencer, made an issue of her womanly qualities. "You ever see a picture of her back then? Whew—I don't know why Bill married her," he said to a reporter from the New York *Daily News* on a plane. A recovered alcoholic who looks every day of his 59 years, Spencer added that the senator "looks good now" and must have had "millions of dollars of work" in plastic surgery. When his comments became news, he first denied them. Then he owned up and gave a taste of what Clinton has to look forward to if she runs in 2008: "As long as I don't say she's a lesbian, I'm okay."

Optimists like Jewson say Clinton's work in the Senate will define her, should she run for president. "I think her record as a successful bipartisan senator will trump." Maurice Carroll, the director of the Polling Institute at Quinnipiac University, who has polled extensively on Clinton, says he's never believed she had a woman problem. "What women said and what women did were two different things." For all the criticism of her personal life, he notes, "All my women friends blathered about it endlessly and didn't do a damn thing about it." That's not to say she won't face image problems. In a recent poll, Carroll asked New Yorkers whether Clinton could translate her success upstate to the red states. Democrats said yes, Republicans said no. If she runs, he predicts, Monica gate will be dredged up, and there will also "be pictures of her in those granny glasses back at Radcliffe. That's how politics is done."

During the Rochester debate, Clinton and Spencer were asked whether America is ready for a woman president. "Absolutely!" said Spencer, whose critique of Clinton is based largely on the accusation that she will be too busy running for president to serve the state. Clinton was more cautious. "That will be up to America. It depends. I'm not going to speculate on that." M

A BLAST FROM THE PAST!

Reagan's nemesis, Daniel Ortega, is set to lead Nicaragua again

BY ISABEL VINCENT • Over the last few months, it appeared that the petro-diplomacy of Venezuelan leader Hugo Chávez was running out of steam. Presidential candidates whom he backed in Mexico and Peru met with defeat at the polls. On Oct. 15, populist Rafael Correa, his preferred candidate for the presidency of Ecuador, came in second place, forcing a runoff vote in late November. And at the UN, Chávez's attempts to secure Venezuela a rotating temporary spot on the 15-member Security Council by lobbying world leaders to support his country against the U.S.-backed candidate, Guatemala, met with disappointment.

Will the Chávez touch also backfire when Nicaraguans go to the polls to elect a new president on Nov. 5? The Venezuelan strongman has openly supported the authoritarian Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega, who ruled the country after the Sandinista revolution in 1979 but has lost his last three bids for the presidency. An Ortega victory would increase Chávez's influence in the region and help spread his virulent anti-American rhetoric. So far, Chavez's biggest allies in Latin America are Cuban leader Fidel Castro and Evo Morales, the president of Bolivia. Now, if Ortega becomes president of Nicaragua, "it will invigorate the axis of leftist proto-dictators led by Chávez," says Roger Noriega, former U.S. assistant secretary of state for western hemisphere affairs between 2003 and 2005, and a visiting fellow at the conservative American Enterprise Institute in Washington.

After the Sandinista overthrow of U.S.-backed dictator Anastasio Somoza in 1979, Ortega became part of a ruling junta, and five years later became president with 67 per cent of the vote. At that time, he instituted a disastrous series of Cuban-style economic reforms that critics say "destroyed" the Central American nation. Still, he is poised to make a comeback, with the help of Chávez. In a year of presidential elections throughout Latin America, Chávez has been accused of using Venezuela's oil revenues to buy votes for his candidates of choice throughout the region. Earlier this year, Chavez offered to send Nicaragua 10 million barrels of oil annually

THE SANDINISTA boss has been leading in polls ahead of the Nov. 5 vote

on a special 25-year credit arrangement to ease the country's frequent energy blackouts and shortages. In a breach of international protocol, the oil deal was hammered out with the national association of municipal mayors, which is dominated by the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), and not with Nicaraguan President Enrique Bolaños.

Chávez has also supplied Sandinista-affiliated co-operatives with fertilizer—which sparked outrage from one of Ortega's rivals, the National Liberal Alliance Conservative Party's Eduardo Montealegre, a Harvard-educated banker and former finance minister who accused Ortega of "buying votes" with the aid of Chavez. Although he is backed by Washington, Montealegre was running second in a recent Zogby poll with 20 per cent support. In third place was José Rizo of the Constitutional Liberal Party, a former vice-president, with 16 per cent of the vote behind Ortega, who had 35 per cent.

Chavez's open support for Ortega has sparked a loud confrontation with the United States, for which Nicaragua has again turned into a battleground for influence in the region. Paul Trivelli, the U.S. ambassador, has been openly critical of Chávez and Ortega, calling the latter "anti-democratic" and "a tiger who hasn't changed his stripes." It's no secret that Washington has tried unsuccessfully to unite several rightist parties in order to block Ortega's chances of winning.

The 60-year-old Sandinista *comandante*, who weathered a CIA-backed Contra battle along with U.S. sanctions and the mining of Nicaragua's harbours throughout his rule in the 1980s, has said he is shocked at the level of what he feels is undue American influence

VENEZUELA'S HUGO CHÁVEZ HAS BEEN OPENLY BACKING ORTEGA. HE'D LIKE ANOTHER ANTI-U.S. ALLY.

in the campaign. "Even in the worst of times during the Ronald Reagan administration, the U.S. envoy was careful with his words," said Ortega, who was defeated in elections held as part of a peace agreement in 1990. "But the current ambassador acts like he is the governor of Nicaragua." Trivelli appeared nonplussed, and subsequently went on Nicaraguan television to defend his position. "I am not going to stop defending democracy," he said. "That is part of our policy and it will continue to be part of our policy. I believe that speaking is not interfering."

The heated exchange led to condemnations by the Organization of American States, which noted that "authorities and representatives of other nations are interfering actively in the Nicaraguan electoral process." Earlier, the Carter Center in Atlanta, an NGO founded by former U.S. president Jimmy Carter that is providing observers to monitor the Nicaraguan elections, had issued a statement "strongly" opposing "foreign intervention in Nicaragua's electoral process." Said a spokesman: "Almost all of the Nicaraguans with whom we spoke expressed concern about foreign governments endorsing and funding specific candidates." A recent poll found that 49 per cent of Nicaraguans believe that Venezuela is meddling in their affairs, while 46 per cent of those polled said the U.S. government is also intervening in their politics.

If it's not foreign intervention influencing the election, many fear fraud and corruption could play a part in the vote, which is expected to give Ortega a first-round victory. In 1999, Ortega teamed up with one-time rival and then-president Arnoldo Alemán to conclude a pact that placed FSLN and Alemán's supporters in important government institutions, which included the judiciary and the Supreme Electoral Council, now stacked with Ortega supporters.

In 2003, Aleman was convicted of fraud and money laundering. And Ortega has also been dogged by allegations of corruption. In his last days in office in 1990, the government passed a series of acts known in Nicaragua as "*la piñata*." Under the legislation, property seized by the Sandinistas in nationalizations in the 1980s became the private property of Sandinista officials, including Ortega. In another scandal, in 1998 Ortega's stepdaughter Zoilamerica Narvaez publicly accused him of sexually abusing her as a child.

Ortega, who claimed immunity from prosecution at a court hearing into the abuse allegations, said the scandals were all part of a campaign by his enemies to smear the FSLN. During the current campaign, he has shrugged off most of the dirt that has dogged his comeback. He is presenting himself as a "reformer" working for "national reconciliation." Polls have shown the approach to be working, in the lead-up to the real test on Nov. 5. M

THE ISSUE IN...

SOFIA: GIRLS GONE WILD DUKE IT OUT OVER HUNK

Police in the Bulgarian capital of Sofia were summoned to a playground recently when a donnybrook erupted among 23 girls aged 15 to 18. The fuss for the girlish outburst: they were fighting over a particularly handsome local boy. Using brass knuckles, chains and even beer bottles, the girls battled while crowds of passersby watched. Despite the uproar, the girls only suffered minor injuries. Just who got the hunk wasn't clear.

OSWALDO RIVAS/REUTERS

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Source: PricewaterhouseCoopers, R&D Companies: Driving a Better, Stronger Canadian Economy, 2005

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Abercrombie and Fitch: Come shop in our dungeon

The hottest new chain in Canada sells by being loud, dark and smelly

BY NICHOLAS KÖHLER • In the otherwise conservative, predictable landscape of the Canadian shopping mall, no clothing store tells the erstwhile retail consumer he is no longer young quite like Abercrombie and Fitch, the U.S.-based clothing chain that opened its first outlets in Canada earlier this year. For the young buyers who propelled its North American sales to US$2.8 billion last year—a 38 per cent increase—A&F and its teen-focused subsidiary, Hollister, are Elysiums of exclusivity, secret dens of consumer pleasure shielded from the outside world by blinds and shutters rather than by the shopping-mall norm of window displays and cavernous open spaces. For those of a certain age, however—30 and up, say—the stores are loud, dark, windowless dungeons, permeated by an odour not unlike that of a broken bottle of cologne.

And yet, even in cautious Canada, the stores succeed; indeed, A&F executives say their Canadian outlets are outpacing their American cousins. Many retail chains try hard to appeal to the young and hip, but few, if any, are so brazenly willing to alienate people beyond university age. Why does a brand that's not just exclusive but exclusionist work? The question answers itself. If you find that your local A&F is the perfect simulacrum of a panic attack, then A&F's executives have done their jobs. "You're too old for it," New York retail anthropologist Paco Underhill says. "You're not supposed to be there. So get out."

A&F has deliberately constructed a retail experience so visceral—in the word of its eccentric CEO, Mike Jeffries, so "emotional"—that large swathes of potential buyers flee. For A&F, which spends little on advertising, the notion is the cornerstone of its success. Get the store—as in, understand and appreciate it—and you'll get the clothing—as in, buy it.

The clothing is aimed at an exclusive class of consumer able to see themselves in the faceless, crotchless torsos of sculpted male models shot by fashion photographer Bruce Weber and hung at A&F store entrances. "That's why we hire good-looking people in our stores," Jeffries recently told *Salon* magazine. "Because good-looking people attract other good-looking people, and we want to market to cool, good-looking people. We don't market to anyone other than that."

The brand was not always so brazen. Before Jeffries arrived in 1992, Abercrombie and Fitch was a moribund outfitter still clinging to its roots. The brand that had once catered to Theodore Roosevelt, Ernest Hemingway and Cole Porter had lately stalled, catering to no one. Using methods not without controversy, Jeffries revamped it catalogues that verged on the pornographic, homoerotic iconography, and sales staff so "good-looking"—so white and So Cal hot, in other words—that a class action suit in the U.S. charging racial discrimination led to a sizable settlement two years ago.

Though A&F has dropped some of its hard core sales techniques—the sexy catalogues, for example, victims of parental complaint, are no longer—the stores are more menacing than ever. Confronting an A&F outlet exterior, "it's almost like the club with the velvet rope in front of it," notes Underhill. The facade of slats for A&F, shutters for Hollister, serve to intimidate those who don't belong, stay out. For initiates, however, this aura of exclusivity is irresistible. "They're trying to close off the storefront as much as possible and draw you into the store—so basically you have to experience the store by going in," says Toronto interior designer Grace Eng. Inside, in place of nightclub bouncers, stand "brand representatives"—sales staff who pose sentinel-like at pre-designated locations, slouching or otherwise feigning cool. Surrounding them is an environment constructed with an attention to detail reminiscent of a Kubrick or von Stroheim. "A lot of retailers tend to adopt a shotgun approach," says Ian Thomas, a Vancouver-based retail analyst. "A&F is the opposite: they take a rifle-shot aim. They have done enormous research, they know who their target market is—and it's a narrow band."

'YOU'RE TOO OLD FOR IT. YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE THERE. SO GET OUT.'

NO OTHER clothing chain in Canada is so brazenly willing to alienate older shoppers in exchange for a young, hip crowd

DAMIAN DOVARGANES/CP

A&F's lighting, dark to the point of subterranean, is punctuated by pinprick spotlights that draw the eye to the merchandise, lending it a dramatic, chiaroscuro effect—as if Caravaggio had painted cargo pants as well as scenes from the Bible. The music, carefully controlled from head office, is sonic, "like you're on double caffeine all day," says Thomas. Then there is that perfume—again, a stench or an essence, depending on your age and level of olfactory tolerance. None of it is by chance—each outlet costs US$1 million to prepare. Indeed, A&F's stores are, Jeffries recently told analysts, its "primary method of communicating with our customers"—the moneyed members of North America's youth, to whom each in-store detail is perfectly contoured.

That darkness? Better to overburden the old, says Underhill. "The older we get, the more the lenses in our eyes yellow and the less capable we are of reacting to changing light." The music, too, is an innovation

(though, admittedly, not A&F's) Used once by retailers to placate staff and diminish turnover, it now is "reinforcing who my target audience is," says Underhill. The cologne, which stores historically—in the days of horse-drawn carriages—placed just within their doors to neutralize the smell of manure, now extends A&F's experience "Think about walking into the grocery store," says Underhill "The smell of fresh bread gets your saliva glands working. I think anything that gets your saliva glands working gets you in the acquisitional mode"

The result is an all-consuming experience—one that prompts buyers to purchase A&F's wares as extensions of its carefully constructed atmosphere rather than as mere clothing "It's absolutely about a kind of lifestyle experience," says Lynn Chalmers, who teaches interior design at the University of Manitoba, and who traces the source of A&F-style experiential interiors to Disneyland's faux environments and, in retail terms, through Banana Republic's safari look of the 1980s "People," she says, "are looking for more than merchandise."

It's clear what the young want to escape—the ordinary and the old "If I'm Abercrombie and Fitch, I don't want anyone who's over

'PEOPLE look for more than merchandise'

30 in that store," says Underhill "I certainly don't want anybody shopping with their parents." He adds "I want to be appealing to people who feel as if they are part of the young, hip, privileged culture rather than aspiring to it"

Funny, then, how A&F duds are themselves rather ordinary, the same factory-distressed garments available elsewhere "Who wants to be mainstream? Everybody wants to be unique," one A&F executive told a Canadian news reporter recently (representatives did not return calls from *Maclean's* in time to comment for this story) But the promise is not borne out by the clothes What do the young want? "A lot of people would say they just want to be individualistic, they are non conforming," says Thomas "I don't see A&F, with the merchandise they're selling, as being anything but conforming" M

TOUGH TO FIGURE

StatsCan's recent spate of mistakes has some asking, what's wrong?

BY JASON KIRBY • Governments and businesses thrive on timely and accurate statistics That's why a series of embarrassing recent snafus by Statistics Canada, the agency charged with measuring the pulse of the nation, is so troubling The biggest flub came in August, when StatsCan admitted it had underestimated five years of inflation data But this year, there have been other incidents in which erroneous figures were released or computer systems failed to work properly The fumbles come atop a long standing complaint from economists and traders that StatsCan is infuriatingly slow at getting some of its numbers out The lag time might have been grudgingly accepted when the quality of the product was impeccable Now, the worry is, StatsCan is too late and too often wrong

Take, for instance, retail trade, an estimate of how we spend our loonies New sales data comes out each month On Oct 23, StatsCan released its latest figures, which dated back to August That's downright poky compared to the number crunchers down south Ten days earlier, the U S Department of Commerce had already cranked out its estimate of American retail spending for September, offering a far more up-to date window into the minds of U S consumers

Nobody expects StatsCan to count every Buick, beer and bread loaf sold in the country Instead, it surveys thousands of businesses each month and extrapolates its results into national figures Naturally, there are errors, and the U S Census Bureau certainly has its share of gaffes When put side by side, though, it's not clear StatsCan is much more accurate than the Census Bureau for all the extra time it takes to crunch the Canadian numbers "It's a trade-off between timeliness and accuracy," says Martin Barnes, editor of BCA Research, who focuses on the U S economy and relies heavily on Census Bureau data "People put a high premium on timeliness"

StatsCan enjoys a solid reputation for having reliable numbers, compared to other developed nations like Germany and Japan But the agency has taken its lumps over the last year Aside from the inflation gaffe in August, which StatsCan blamed on a software error, last April the agency fessed up to undervaluing worker output in 2005 because they overlooked the fact 2004 was a leap year Then, in September, a computer glitch blocked economists from accessing certain mercantile trade data StatsCan's plodding production schedule makes such blunders more glaring "The complaint out there from international market participants isn't so much that they're too sloppy," says one economist "It's that they're too slow"

StatsCan has launched a review of how it certifies and disseminates monthly data, and the final report, due in January, will identify

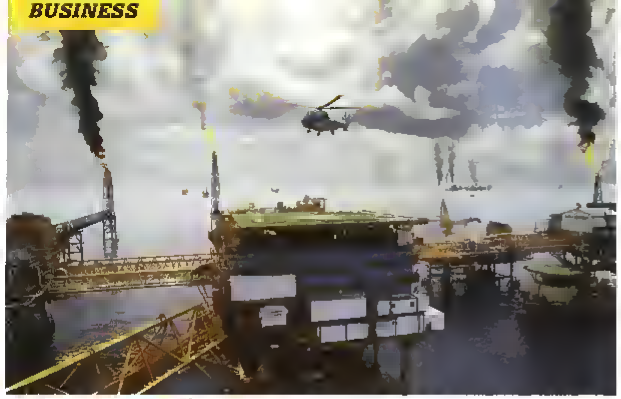
'THE COMPLAINT OUT THERE ISN'T SO MUCH THAT THEY'RE TOO SLOPPY, IT'S THAT THEY'RE TOO SLOW'

"weak points" in its system so they can be corrected, says Louis Marc Ducharme, director of the prices division at the agency But on the issue of timeliness, he says the agency has no plans to change its tactics For one thing, the agency uses larger samples for its surveys than the U S , while publishing data in greater detail, all in an effort to be more accurate "Historically, we in Canada have preferred to wait a few days more and have greater details and less revisions," says Ducharme He points to data from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, which tracks member nations' gross domestic product (GDP) and how often the figures are revised Since 2000, Canada has had the smallest absolute revision of all G7 countries "They show when you compare countries, we fit in the middle in terms of timeliness, but we're higher in terms of quality," he says "It's a question of where you put your priority." M

WHEN THE HELP NEEDS HELP IT'S TIME TO GO

David Cliff was paid to head up the Drug and Alcohol Action Team in County Durham, England Last week, it was learned that Cliff quit following an investigation into allegations of drunkenness One witness described Cliff as being "drunk as a scuttle" on a weekend night, and another said he returned after lunches "reeking of alcohol, giggling and worse for wear" Cliff controlled a widely praised telephone line to help drug and alcohol addicts

MARK PETERSON/REDUX



PEMEX, the state-owned oil company, has been treated like a cash cow for government

Mexico's energy crisis has arrived

Our NAFTA partner is running out of oil, and that's trouble for Canada

BY ANNETTE HESTER • Mexican president-elect Felipe Calderón was in Canada last week to meet his NAFTA counterpart, talking trade and co-operation. Behind the smiles and warm words, however, there are serious questions brewing about just how Mexico will deal with a burgeoning energy crisis. Simply put, Mexico is running out of oil, and that could put extraordinary pressure on Canada and upset the global energy scene.

Canada and Mexico are the top two suppliers of oil to the U.S., with exports of 2.1 million and 1.8 million barrels a day respectively, but the two countries are worlds apart in the development of their energy resources. Canada has fostered development of its reserves, and is about to increase its production substantially. Mexico, on the other hand, has the potential to be an energy powerhouse, but has allowed oil and gas exploration and production to be hamstrung by history and outdated national economic policies.

Early in the last century, the Mexican government enshrined national ownership of all hydrocarbon resources into its constitution, and in 1938 nationalized the industry with the establishment of state oil company PEMEX. The government of the day asked all Mexicans to help pay the costs of expropriating oil properties from foreign corporations. Families parted with treasured heirlooms to help government pay the expropriation costs. As a result, there is still a deeply emotional public attachment to the national company, which limits the ability of government to change the constitution to permit private investment. Any such change would require approval by a prohibitive two-thirds majority vote in the federal legislature as well as a majority of the state legislatures.

For decades, PEMEX did well for the country, managing to explore, produce, invest and pay taxes. Its conventional reserves grew to the point that Mexico ranked third in the western hemisphere, after Venezuela and the U.S. (Canada now ranks first, thanks to the Alberta oil sands). Oil prices rose, production increased, and the Mexican government became addicted to PEMEX's revenues. Instead of relying on taxation to finance expenditures, like most developed countries, the government took what it needed from PEMEX. The federal purse now takes more than 60 per cent of company revenues, which provide a third of the national budget. In spite of record high oil prices, PEMEX has run up massive debt and recently posted a net loss of US$7 billion for 2005.

PRESIDENT-ELECT Felipe Calderón faces a huge test

The company is starved for investment funds to improve production in mature fields, such as the mammoth Cantarell—where current production of almost two million barrels per day is projected to fall by 30 per cent in the next two years—and to develop new discoveries such as the potentially vital Chicontepec field. As things stand currently, Mexico only has 10 years of oil reserves left.

The story on natural gas is even worse. Mexico's reserves have declined from 56.1 trillion cubic feet in 1999 to 48.6 trillion in 2005. Although PEMEX has managed to increase production slightly in the last three years, consumption has considerably outpaced domestic supply, forcing the country to become a net importer from the U.S. This trend is expected to continue.

The severe shortfall of investment funds has also impacted the refining sector. In spite of its considerable oil production and exports, Mexico is a net importer of refined petroleum products, especially of gasoline. Problems are already beginning to surface. Mexico has seen its regional influence wane as Venezuela takes a greater role in subsidizing oil for Caribbean and Central American countries, and the impact on North America won't be far behind.

Canada is already producing and exporting all it can, and is planning to increase production apace. Even so, it won't be able to make up the shortfall caused by Mexico's export decline. The U.S. will need to look for other suppliers, most likely in the Middle East, and oil prices will surely rise. The result will be a heightened feeling of insecurity accompanied by the usual protectionism and calls for heavy subsidies for domestic American production. Extremely high oil prices will put a great deal of pressure on the Ontario economy and fuel hyperactivity in Alberta, exacerbating the already serious labour shortages and increasing costs to unsustainable levels. It is a recipe for hemispheric trouble.

Adding to this uncertainty is the fact that Mexico has opted out of NAFTA on key issues related to oil and gas. However, the country is part of the tripartite energy working group, which might be helpful. But with nationalistic emotions running high in Mexico, even subtle pressures from the partners might be construed as attempts to interfere. President Calderon has his work cut out for him. The PEMEX golden goose is nearly exhausted. And when the oil runs out, what happens to Mexico? And what happens to the rest of us? M

Annette Hester is a fellow with the Centre for International Governance Innovation in Waterloo, Ont., specializing in the geopolitics of energy in the western hemisphere.

VICTOR R. CAIVANO/CP (TOP); ANDREW WINNING/REUTERS

ALY SONG/REUTERS (TOP); PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRISTOPHER WAHL

IN PLACES like China, Iran and Saudi Arabia, firewalls filter and block Web content

CITIZEN HACKTIVIST

Breaking down firewalls set by repressive regimes comes at a cost

BY DANYLO HAWALESHKA • Although many countries would consider Ronald Deibert a criminal, he doesn't particularly look like one. His fashionably dishevelled hair, chalky complexion and world-weary demeanour are more suggestive of a lapsed punk rocker than someone intent on fighting Internet censorship in the name of human rights. But Deibert heads an internationally respected group of hacktivists, and the impending release of software they've developed to circumvent censors is going to keep him in a lot of people's bad books for the foreseeable future.

Formally, Deibert is the director of the Citizen Lab, part of the University of Toronto's Munk Centre for International Studies. Located in a dimly lit cavern in the centre's basement, the lab is made up of altruistic geeks devoted to the task of freeing the Net. In places such as China, Iran and Saudi Arabia, where firewalls filter Web content deemed too "sensitive" for the citizenry to view, the clandestine, online challenges to authority by Deibert and his cyber-colleagues would get them locked up, or worse. Now, in what is expected to be a blow against the censors, the Citizen Lab is preparing to release a free, easy-to-use program called psiphon. Designed to scale those firewalls by stealth, psiphon promises anyone living in a censored country unfettered access to previously blocked websites. "It's going to have a huge impact," Deibert says of psiphon's launch on Dec. 1. "It's the most significant piece of software to be released in Canada this year, there's no doubt about it in my mind."

Deibert and his colleagues move in dangerous circles so that others—psiphon users, in particular—won't have to. Recently, an investigator engaged in electronic detective work for the Citizen Lab in a Central Asian republic was fatally shot. "We're still in shock here in the lab," Deibert says. "The report was suicide, but there were two bullets in his head, so..." The victim, whom Deibert declines to identify to protect the family, was involved in other human rights activities, so Deibert can't be certain the man was killed because of his connection to the downtown Toronto lab. Still, he says, "it's certainly the nature of the business, in the parts of the world we deal with, that people who challenge authority in this way are 'taken care of.' Everybody involved in this project has stories."

ONE INVESTIGATOR WAS FATALLY SHOT. 'THE REPORT SAID SUICIDE, BUT THERE WERE TWO BULLETS.'

That's why such a heavy emphasis has been placed on making psiphon safe, and virtually undetectable by the authorities, Deibert says. He knows because the Citizen Lab spies on the spies. This is accomplished through the OpenNet Initiative, a collaboration between Deibert's lab and Harvard and Cambridge universities. Under OpenNet, some 80 investigators living under oppressive regimes probe the inner electronic workings of more than 40 countries suspected of censoring the Internet, or known to do so. From this knowledge, psiphon was developed over a number of years.

Here is how it will work: beginning next month, uncensored Internet users in Canada, the United States, Europe and elsewhere will be able to download psiphon from the lab's website at *http://psiphon.civisec.org* and install the application on their home computers. "It's so easy," Deibert says, "my six-year-old could do it." The goal is to launch versions in English, French and Russian, while Chinese and Arabic translations may also be ready by the release date, or shortly thereafter. After installing psiphon, the uncensored user communicates by telephone with friends and family in a censored region to relay a unique, 11-digit Web address. That person then enters the secret URL into his or her browser to connect to the psiphon-enabled computer. Up pops a log-in page that requires a username and password, also supplied by the uncensored contact. The person can then surf the Net at will.

Elijah Zarwan, a Cairo-based consultant who last year wrote a report on Internet censorship in the Middle East and North Africa for Human Rights Watch, has high hopes for psiphon. "Repressive governments are in a cat-and-mouse game with Internet users—as new means of circumventing cen-

RONALD DEIBERT in his lab at U of T

WAY OUT THERE

OUT OF THE DISCO AND INTO THE COMBAT ZONE

Terminator-style weapons are now a reality. Boeing is testing a laser-gunship system that can be mounted on a plane, helicopter or even a truck. A high-energy "tactical laser" with sophisticated beam control would enable a gunship to issue a 10-cm beam strong enough to cut through metal at a distance of up to 13 km. The system's narrow field of destruction would make it useful for taking out targets in urban areas with no collateral damage.

sorship come online, governments find ways to shut these avenues," Zarwan says "The advantage of psiphon is that so long as it remains within trusted circles, it will be very difficult for governments to shut off"

Because no software is installed on the computer in the censored country, a machine seized by the authorities won't incriminate the user, says Rafal Rohozinski, a security expert at the University of Cambridge, and member of the OpenNet Initiative "There's no actual trace of the application," says Rohozinski, "or of what psiphon does on a user's computer"

Communications between computers running psiphon are encrypted, and cleverly disguised Web content deemed objectionable—Western news sites such as CNN or the BBC, or blogs by opposition parties—is sent through port 443 on the computer, the same outlet used when someone banks online or buys something from a secure website. Deibert says that to anyone eavesdropping electronically, the illicit surfing "will be indistinguishable from any of the millions of financial transactions that are going on—it would be like looking for needles in haystacks"

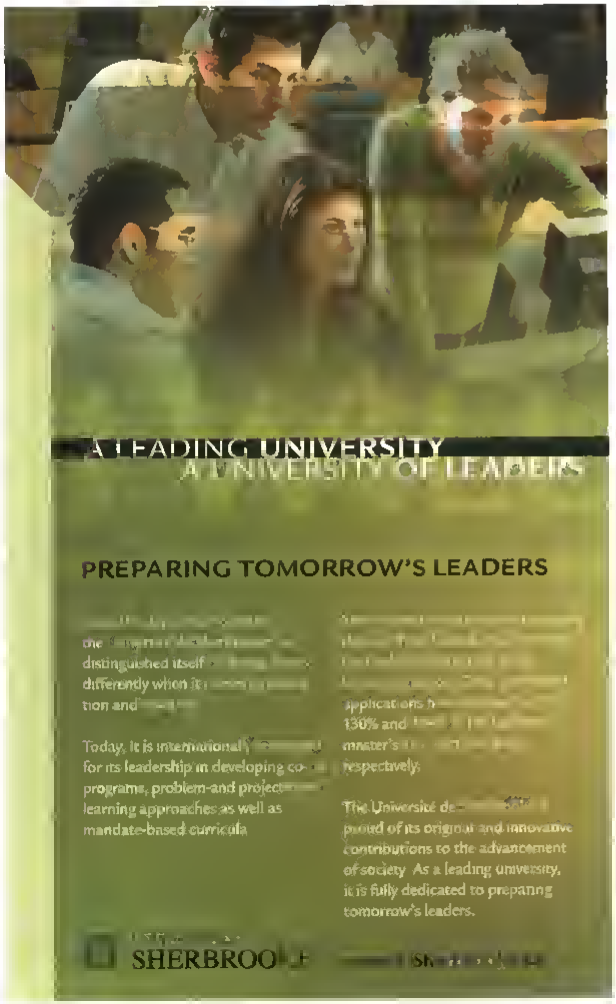
'THE ADVANTAGE OF PSIPHON IS THAT IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR GOVERNMENTS TO SHUT OFF'

Aside from the user, the Web content will also be visible to the person with psiphon installed on the home computer, which will dissuade psiphon from being used to view, for example, child pornography, Deibert says And while it is *theoretically* possible for the authorities to track down someone using psiphon, Michael Hull, psiphon's lead software engineer, says current computing capabilities will first have to undergo an exponential explosion in capacity—which, in practical terms, he says is "impossible" at the moment The risk to psiphon users, Hull adds, is "never zero, but if you take all the steps you can to make it as safe as possible, in the end you'll end up having something that is much safer than using any other method to visit a censored site"

In this world of cyber-spy versus cyber-spy, Deibert has had his own run-ins, albeit relatively minor ones Last spring, he says the Canadian Security Intelligence Service sent two agents to his lab's computer-lined office to warn him his research into state-sponsored firewalls placed him at personal risk, perhaps from the Chinese "Their explanation for why they got in touch with us was we were a possible target for foreign agents," Deibert says "Not that we need to be told that" He says the CSIS warning was appreciated, but he already knew of an Atlanta programmer who had been visited by what were assumed to be Chinese agents. "They beat the hell out of him and took his computer"

CSIS says it isn't in the habit of confirming or denying whom it visits "What we do is we investigate threats to national security and then we provide advice to the government," says Barbara Campion, a CSIS spokeswoman "We don't, as a rule, provide advice to individuals" Regardless, Deibert is sticking to his story "Interesting," he says of the response from CSIS "I guess we were the exception to the rule"

Deibert now says it's up to those who live free to step up And Canada, with its large diasporas, is particularly well placed to play a leading role in downloading psiphon and spreading the word "It's like extending a hand across borders to help your cousins whose human rights are being denied," says Deibert And where's the crime in that? M



HUMANS AND DINOSAURS walk the planet together at a creationist theme park in Florida

ARE YOU WITH US OR AGAINST US?

America's religion vs. science war just got a lot more polarized

BY BRIAN BETHUNE • British biologist Richard Dawkins and American geneticist Francis Collins, two of the most prominent scientists alive, see eye to eye on several points The evolution of life by natural selection over billions of years, they agree, is a fact—plain, observable, *proven* And also that the more we know about the splendour and interconnectedness of creation—whether its origin was natural or divine—the more moved we are to transcendent wonder, the more fully human. In short, it's simply wrong—no less than a cultural and intellectual crime—to keep this knowledge from students, and instead feed them untenable pap about a 6,000-year-old earth where humans once ran with dinosaurs Natural allies, you might think, in America's seemingly interminable attempt to come to grips with Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species*, first published almost 150 years ago

Not a chance Dawkins, the world's most prominent atheist polemicist, will have no truck or trade with the enemy—and Collins, as devout a Christian as he is a committed Darwinist, is very much the enemy How, Dawkins asks rhetorically in an interview with *Maclean's*, can he work with a man like Collins, who may be a distinguished scientist (a former head of the Human Genome project, no less), when the geneticist also *simultaneously* believes in what Dawkins considers absurd, like a personal god who rose from the dead? "In a funny way," adds Dawkins, "I have more respect for a strict creationist"

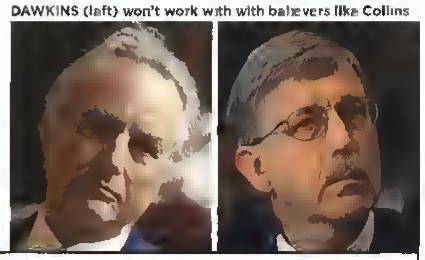
On that newly key battlefront in America's science vs religion war—and no other—Dawkins is actually onside with the likes of Phillip Johnson, strictest of strict creationists The born again California lawyer is the original force behind "intelligent design," creationism's latest incarnation, which claims that life at a molecular level is too "irreducibly complex" to have arisen on its own Both Johnson and Dawkins are united in their contempt for the middle ground For them, Collins has no business trying to be cutting-edge scientist *and* religious believer—and no chance of pulling it off

Millions of Americans may want to keep a foot in both camps, God's and Darwin's, but the middle ground is eroding fast Eight decades after the infamous Scopes Monkey Trial, polls show that half the population of the United States, the world's scientific and technological powerhouse, professes belief in strict Biblical creationism This even split is mirrored nowhere else in the Western world creationism makes the news in Canada only when a provincial educational authority, like Quebec's last week, scrutinizes independent religious schools to ensure that evolution is being taught in science class Or during the 2000 federal election when Liberal spin doctor Warren Kinsella waved a stuffed Barney dinosaur to mock Canadian Alliance leader Stockwell Day for his church's creationist stance

In the U S , however, intelligent design, though dismissed by the majority of biologists as pseudo-science, is always a live issue It currently looms in the Michigan governor's race, where Republican candidate Dick DeVos, a conservative Christian (and Amway heir), wants it taught along with evolution in science classes Creationist organizations offer "Noah's Flood" tours of the Grand Canyon in competition with geologists' interpretation, while the two sides quarrel bitterly over what books can be sold in the national park's gift shop

Even so, for hardliners on either side, evolution is only part of a fight that's rapidly polarizing The vast majority of the Christians who accept creationism also line up on the conservative side of every other hot-button religious-secular fault line in America—they're anti-abortion, anti gay, anti stem cell research—many of them passionately so U S fundamentalists rally the troops with warnings of a "gay agenda" takeover of their nation and with books like John Gibson's *The War on Christmas How the Liberal Plot to Ban the Sacred Christian Holiday is Worse Than You Thought* More seriously, John Jones, the U S federal judge who in 2005 struck down a Dover, Pa , school board's decision to teach ID in public schools, publicly revealed in September that he was stunned by the reaction to it, which included death threats The response was so virulent, according to Jones, because many conservative Christians had expected him to rule otherwise Why? Because he is a long-time Republican and George W Bush appointee in other words,

DAWKINS (left) won't work with with believers like Collins



FOR HARD-LINERS, NO ONE CAN BE TRUE CHRISTIAN AND TRUE SCIENTIST

STEVEN FRAME/THE NEW YORK TIMES DAVID LEVENSON/GETTY JIM WATSON/GETTY

they demanded he be true to the cause, no matter the law

Scientists, for their part, have become alarmed about funding cuts, like Bush's September veto of a stem cell research bill, his first ever veto So for Dawkins, too, the stakes are just too high for compromise He refuses to indulge in what he calls "the Neville Chamberlain school of appeasement," by co-operating with moderate Christians merely to keep evolution in science classes He is seriously worried over the possible emergence of the ultimate rogue state, a nuclear-armed American theocracy "If you think the big battle is over teaching evolution in schools, then you will go for allies where you find them," he notes "But if you think that's a mere skirmish in the war between superstition and rationalism, then no, you won't"

Both extremes share a deep-set paranoia that the *other* guys are winning, a fear that makes them shower the compromising, and compromised, middle ground with mockery and vituperation When Collins recently published *The Language of God* (Fenn) to defend his dual devotions, reaction was brutal Religiously conservative websites rebuked him for discounting "the wealth of scientific evidence supporting the Christian world view," and questioning the depth of his faith (Other creationist supporters have given up entirely on proof, understandably so, given the weight of the evidence against them. As Harvard-trained geologist Kurt Wise, who recently made his own choice and returned to his childhood religion, put it "If all the evidence in the universe turns against creationism, I would be the first to admit it, but I would still be a creationist because that is what the word of God seems to indicate" Some creationists say the answer to the evidence conundrum is simple although God created the world 6,000 years ago—as set out in the Bible—he made it *look* like it was much older. The aim of this divine mendacity, presumably, was to test humanity's faith)

From the atheistic side, Sam Harris, a truculent American secularist often approvingly cited in Dawkins' new bestseller, *The God Delusion* (Thomas Allen), dismissed Collins's attempt to reconcile reason and faith in scathing terms "To say that he fails at his task does not quite get at the inadequacy of his efforts He fails the way a surgeon would fail if he attempted to operate using only his toes His failure is predictable, spectacular and vile" Naturally, Harris questioned Collins's credentials as a *scientist* No wonder Collins's assessment of the current climate is gloomy "My sense is the squeeze is getting worse," he said in an interview with *Maclean's* "I hear louder and shriller claims from atheistic scientists and ever stronger reactions from religious people"

An often melancholy tone marks Collins's book. One poignant and telling passage concerns an invitation he received to address a group of Christian physicians They were thrilled to have him—an eminent geneticist and one of us!—until he began to talk about the truth of evolution. The warmth, and some of the doctors, immediately left the room Recalling that moment, Collins, 56, sounds saddened still "The whole thing gave me a sense of disappointment I'm a physician myself, I cannot imagine how you can work as a physician without an evolutionary sense How can they understand flu pandemics or genetic diseases or anything at all? Nothing in medicine makes sense without evolution, yet these dedicated physicians deny it." Afterwards, he added, "one of them sent me an email calling me a false prophet."

Like millions of other Christians, particularly outside the United States, the geneticist believes in theistic evolution God kick-started the universe 14 billion years ago with the big bang, an origins story so friendly to Christian theology it could have been proposed by a clergyman In fact, it was a Belgian priest and physicist, Georges Lemaître, first floated his concept of an "exploding Cosmic Egg" in 1927 Albert Einstein and other materialistic scientists disliked Lemaître's theory precisely because of its suspicious compatibility with Christian belief about the origins of the visible universe But it's now the accepted version of events, even for Dawkins

After that spectacular intervention in reality, so Collins's view holds, God pretty much let things evolve Hence his book's words of wisdom, directed to his fellow believers, on the folly of "finding God in the gaps"—the very raison d'être of ID Anomalies or basic functions that remain mysterious to science, he argues, should never be taken as evidence of divine action Consider the crisis that would then follow, Collins writes, if—when—science does find a natural explanation Collins grounds his own belief in God upon the existence of what he calls the moral law—common notions of right and wrong found in every human society—for which he finds no persuasive natural explanation

In stark contrast Dawkins's current best-seller, a slashing polemic against all forms of religious belief, is marked by the author's combative zest. An Oxford professor, Dawkins, 65, targets not just God-inspired terrorists and ID crusaders, or the absurdities and contradictions of blind faith His book is a full-bore assault on all forms of religious belief as the root of (virtually) all evil Moderate believers—the sort of exemplary citizens who go to church on Sundays, and devote time and money to good works ranging from medical aid to the Third World to the local literacy program—are as much a menace to humankind as the radicals Perhaps more so, for moderates are the enablers of fanaticism simply by proclaiming faith to be a virtue And they are child abusers to boot, because they raise their children religiously, just as they too were raised (and abused) as children.

A convent of Carmelite nuns being almost as sinister as a cabal of armed jihadists,

SOME CREATIONISTS SAY GOD MADE THE EARTH LOOK OLDER THAN IT IS

EIGHT DECADES after the Scopes trial, the U.S. continues to struggle over evolution

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03 July	Online Gas payment	
04 July	Automatic car payment	
05 July	Cheque #354	$0 00
05 July	Credit Card payment	$0 00
06 July	Retail purchase	$0.00
06 July	Neighbourhood Restaurant	$0.00
06 July	Cheque #355	$0.00
07 July	RBC ATM withdrawal	$0.00
08 July	Online Telephone bill payment	$0 00
09 July	RBC ATM withdrawal	$0 00
10 July	Cheque #356	
12 July	Online Cable b	
13 July	Grocery purch	
14 July	RBC ATM withdrawal	
15 July	Automatic student loan pa	
15 July	Cheque #357	
18 July	Neighbourhood Restaurant	
18 July	Cheque #358	
19 July	Retail purchase	
22 July	RBC ATM withdrawal	
23 July	Cheque #359	
24 July	RBC ATM withdrawal	
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Dawkins argues it's time for moderates to accept the truth they've been inching towards (as proven by their very moderation), embrace their inner atheists, and come on over to what he provocatively calls the "bright" side. Although he loathes and rejects the term, Dawkins is a secular fundamentalist, a man who brooks no compromise with the dim wits and dark superstitions of traditional belief. Not even on compassionate grounds. "It doesn't matter if religion is emotionally satisfying," he says, "if it's not true."

He opens *The God Delusion* from strength: even religious people will admit to the horrors of the Spanish Inquisition and the bloody conflicts of the Reformation. And from a modern, moral perspective, it's difficult to dispute Dawkins's description of the God of the Pentateuch: "a petty, unjust, unforgiving control freak, a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic-cleanser, a misogynist, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully."

From there on, though, his arguments grow increasingly less persuasive for those not already on his side. His cases for religion and morality *separately* emerging through Darwinian processes are solid, but hardly compelling for a believer. When he comes to his core comments about religion as the root of evil, he glides over the fact that Christians haven't indulged in any large-scale bloodletting of heretics, infidels or witches for some centuries now. In actuality, when it comes to threats to human life and limb, within the modern Western world it's far easier to build a case fingering scientists—for instance the guys who first thought of feeding ground-up sheep to cows—than clergymen.

An appalling amount of organized slaughter did take place in what was once known as Christendom during the past century. The problem for Dawkins is that it didn't occur in the name of God. Christian apologists often ask him, Dawkins writes, about those "atheist killers" Hitler and Stalin. Asked if the example of the two dictators, who inspired whole nations to kill on a massive scale, didn't show that the real enemy was fanaticism—whether religious, racial, nationalistic or ideological—Dawkins lumped everything under the religious rubric. "There is a lot to the blind fanaticism theory, but religion is the foremost propeller of that, because of faith—you're saying in advance that no one is going to talk you out of this no matter what. Religious fanaticism is the worst kind of all."

RELIGION IS the root of (virtually) all evil for Dawkins

THE WARMTH, AND SOME OF THE DOCTORS, LEFT THE ROOM

Does this amount to anything more than Dawkins pinning everything he dislikes in history, society and humanity on religion? A net cast so wide is akin to saying the human record of mindless, hate-fuelled violence is caused by, well, the human capacity for mindless, hate-fuelled violence. It's not likely to convince an ordinary churchgoing soul that he's part of a vast, blood-drenched evil. But then again, Kurt Wise's confession of faith—not just in the absence of evidence, but in the teeth of it—is hardly convincing either.

Francis Collins's middle ground may be impossible for militants of either flank to accept—it is not, by any means, *entirely* logical—but it does reflect an enduring human truth. The centre is where most of us want to be. We are what we are: creatures endowed, by God or evolution, with brains that seek both earthly knowledge and spiritual meaning. In the end, the middle of the road may be the only place we can live. M

CHILD'S OZ-LIKE DEPARTURE ENDS HAPPILY

Le Ngoc Dong, just 13 months, was asleep in a cradle suspended from the roof in his parents' hut in central Vietnam last month while outside, typhoon Xangsane ravaged. Suddenly, winds ripped the roof off the hut and spirited Dong away. A doctor reported, "His father saw the cradle flying above a two-storey school." Incredibly, Dong landed in a nearby pond, his fall broken by floating water plants. His parents have nicknamed him "Parachute Boy."

In loo of coasters

Drinks in the bathroom? Beats the alternatives...

BY JULIA McKINNELL • Toronto bartender Samantha Gibbon is trying to figure out how it will work once Ontario passes new legislation to allow patrons to take drinks into bathrooms. "Where would you put it?" Gibbon wonders as she holds an imaginary drink in one hand and tries to picture herself in the toilet stall of a bar. "You can't squat and hold your drink at the same time."

The new law is designed to cut down on cases of date rape in which drugs are slipped into the drinks of unsuspecting customers, usually women. Similar laws are already in effect in B.C., Alberta and Saskatchewan.

"You would put it on a ledge," answers waitress Shannon Day, who's on a break, eating chicken Caesar salad at the bar across from Gibbon. Day finds the idea of taking a drink to the toilet "unsanitary." "Why would you hold your drink and pee?" she asks.

"What if there's no ledge?" says Gibbon, who, in theory, thinks the plan is "brilliant" and "necessary" but "gross."

"Then you put it on the floor."

"What if the bathroom floor is all wet with toilet paper?"

"Well, I would suck it back, then put it on the floor," says Day.

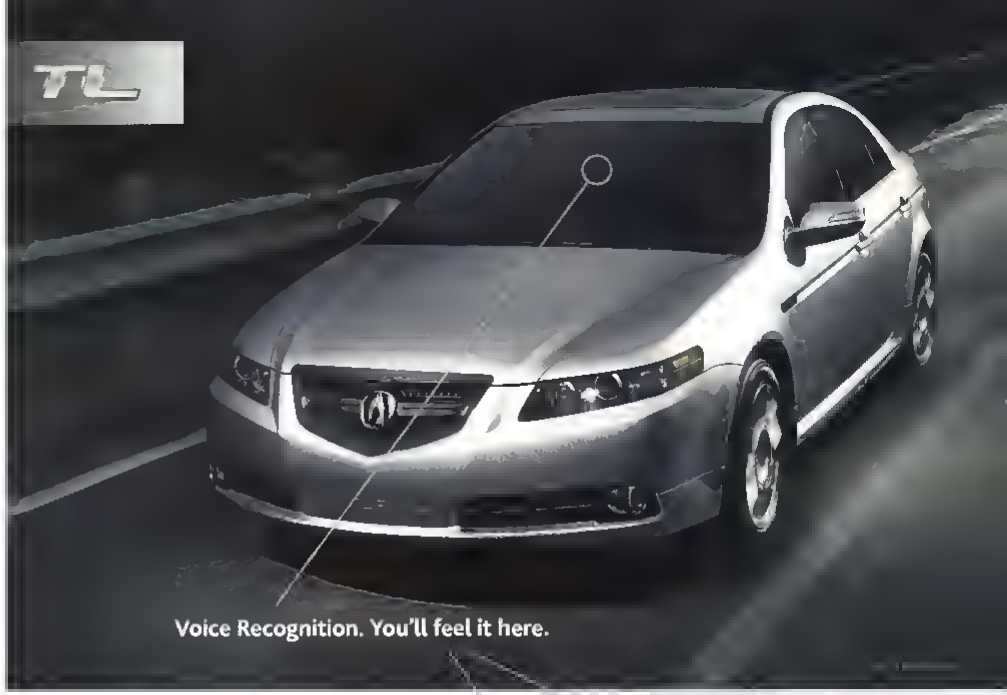
"You know what's funny," says Gibbon. "People leave the bar and they put a coaster on top of their drink like that's going to protect them somehow. Then when they come back with their cigarettes and the coaster is still on top, they think it's fine. You see that all the time!"

Gibbon thinks drugging is so prevalent that any woman who goes to a bar without friends is "doomed." "Remember when I had it slipped to me?" she says. "At a club I used to work at, I was drugged. I didn't even realize. My boss came and took me off the bar. He said, 'What have you had to drink?' I said, 'Nothing.' I went and sat with one of the bouncers for an hour, then all of a sudden I was overwhelmingly sick but I couldn't throw up. It's like I'd drunk 80 glasses of wine, but you can't throw up and you can't move. You're like a bag. You can't do anything."

Day was drugged, too, at a club. "I was told I was all over someone. I had a friend take me home. I was told, 'You need to leave.' I have no memory of it."

"Nobody wants to have to bring their drinks into the bathroom," says Gibbon, "but nowadays you have to." M

SHAWN BALDWIN/CP



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EVERYBODY PLEASE SIT DOWN

The standing ovation, once a response to a masterful performance, has become 'a kind of cheapened routine.' BY SARMISHTA SUBRAMANIAN

In a pre-screening ad that made the circuit at the Toronto International Film Festival earlier this fall, an usher, a young man in a T-shirt walks into a hushed theatre gala to seat a patron—and gets a barn-burning round of applause from the crowd. The film fest leans heavily on its volunteers, and the ad's message, to thank them, was well-intentioned enough. It also worked: after watching the clip, audiences in several theatres leapt to their feet clapping. But did TIFF volunteers really need a standing ovation—that superlative signal of audience appreciation once reserved for the likes of Yo Yo Ma, the Dalai Lama, and Baryshnikov?

Today's arts patrons certainly don't need any more encouragement to spring from their seats in thunderous applause. It's a good bet that innumerable evenings at auditoriums across North America this season will end with this ritual. The standing ovation, once a response to a masterful performance, is now *de rigueur* after even the most pedestrian. "People rise to their feet far too much," says Shelagh Kareda, the wife of the late theatre director and critic Urjo Kareda. "Standing ovations have become a kind of cheapened routine," says Leon Botstein, music director of the American Symphony Orchestra and president of Bard College in New York state. "It's like turning up the volume louder and louder because you are no longer excited by the volume you are used to." "When everything receives an ovation," says John Heilpern, the theatre critic for the *New York Observer*, "nothing is receiving one."

Audiences in the 18th and 19th centuries responded more viscerally, cheering and stomping when they liked something—and booing when they didn't, sometimes right over the music. Performers did try to lead the crowd, among other things employing professional applauders, called *claqueurs*. There were *rieurs*, who laughed on demand, and *pleurers*, who cried. Women hired by opera houses threw flowers (later recycled), and many groups even offered a sliding scale of services: regular clapping came cheaper than "insistent applause," which cost much less than "wild enthusiasm," according to *Clappers: A History of Applause*, created by David Owen Norris for BBC Radio. But that didn't filter out the crowd's own hisses and jeers. Opera audiences in Europe still boo. There are concerts in Italy at which some people cheer and others boo, an audience having a conversation with itself.

Here in North America, the response is more decorous. Ovations are habitual, and quite easily led. "A few people stand up," says John Fraser, master of Massey College in Toronto and one time dance critic, "and most of us are like goats." Standing ovations also encourage an element of peer pressure, as anyone who has sat through one will attest. Fraser has witnessed an ovation accidentally started by a ballet patron simply trying to leave the theatre after the show. Stalwart theatre-, opera- and symphony-goers refuse to stand simply out of habit, or because everyone else is up. "I'm the last to get up," says Botstein resolutely. "It's a little too much like fascism."

If you are a performer, there are subtle tricks to ensure a standing ovation—claptraps, quite literally. Certain people will reliably get one: child prodigies, performers who are ill or dying or retiring. "When Vladimir Horowitz came out of retirement, every concert he gave, regardless of how he played, got a standing ovation," says Botstein, who is writing a book on the history of listening. Then there are the pieces that always get standing ovations: Shostakovich's *Fifth Symphony* or Mahler's *Eighth* (or Beethoven's *Fifth*, "a connoisseur's claptrap" according to Norris). Or theatre shows with big name stars—or very big sets. People are moved by big sets, says Kareda. She points out that *The Lord of the Rings* premiere in Toronto got rousing ovations. Later, theatre-goers "went all over town saying it stank."

Not everyone believes we're in the midst of an ovation epidemic. Ovations may simply follow fashion, Fraser argues. "Right now in Toronto," he says, "opera is hot. Used to be the symphony was hot, and for a period of time theatre—little theatre particularly." When an art form is in vogue, he says, people ovate. "No one stands for the symphony anymore. They used to, in Massey Hall."

And some audiences are more lavish than others. The Met, Fraser says, is a "bravo-crazy house." London's Royal Opera House tends to be more reserved. "We are not a demonstrative people," admits Norris, a classical pianist himself and a fellow at Oxford. (Although, he points out, his countrymen did deliver what amounted to a national standing ovation of grief, after the death of Princess Di.) But there is demonstrative, and then there is overenthusiastic. Fraser recalls that at old Canadian Opera Company concerts, audiences would cheerfully applaud seven-year-old sets. His wife, the writer Elizabeth MacCallum, recalls one set that incorporated rocks numbered for the convenience of the stage hands—and placed onstage with the numbers showing. No matter: on came the ovation.

For serious listeners, all this applause can be a terrible distraction. "I've been in performances where they played Gustav Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde*," says Botstein, "and people started cheering." That's an odd response to an exquisitely melancholy work. "They've missed the point!" he says. "What are they clapping about? I'm ready to shoot myself." The *Observer*'s Heilpern observes a similar trend in theatre. "In the rush to give a standing ovation," he says, "a slow curtain, a pause at the end of a show, a beat or moment of reflection, have become impossible."

For performers, it can be even more frustrating. During a solo concert in Japan a few years ago, the jazz pianist Keith Jarrett registered his displeasure at a fan's ill-timed applause in between two rather quiet pieces by stopping his performance mid-note. The silence lasted 15 seconds and is captured for posterity in *Tokyo Solo*, a recently released DVD of the show. Jarrett is famously prickly—he's rumoured to hand out cough drops to audiences in an effort to pre-empt interruptions. (His own trademark guttural outbursts don't seem to slow him down any.)

DORBIS

A 1912 THEATRE notice. Some say today's audiences could use some instruction, too

Still, his irritation is understandable. And there are musicians who've suffered worse fates from an audience's generosity. At one performance of *Lucia* that Botstein attended at the Met, the hall delivered a 20-minute standing ovation (cheers, clapping, tossed bouquets) after the last aria from soprano Joan Sutherland, not realizing that the opera wasn't over yet. Some people began to leave. "And then the curtain rises, and here is this poor tenor," recalls Botstein. "And I thought, what is he going to do now, after *that*—tear off his clothes? Well, wouldn't you know it, he loses his voice. And I blame it on the stupid standing ovation."

The genuine article still exists, and one can usually tell it from practised, robotic applause. There was, for instance, the spontaneous ovation given to Richard Bradshaw when he came onstage to introduce the Governor General at the opening of Toronto's new opera house earlier this year. It left the GG waiting, forgotten, as a grateful Bradshaw took his bows and then burst, sweetly and a little inexplicably, into a rendition of *O Canada*. Onstage, too, a skilful conductor or singer can extract the right sort of ovation from a crowd. "You learn when you end a piece, not to put your hands down," says Botstein. "You can control the distance between what you're doing and the applause by holding the silence."

Nevertheless, the ovation is now so commonplace that soon, the only reasonable way to judge one performance against another may be to see whose applause lasts longer. In this, the politics of theatre can take a cue from the theatre of politics. Witness the long-running contest between British Prime Minister Tony Blair and his archrival, Chancellor Gordon Brown, whose respective standing ovations have been the subject of great debate. A BBC story on the Labour Party conference a few weeks ago included the following vital statistics for Gordon Brown: "Standing ovation: two mins 45 secs. Applause: 41 bursts during speech." A story the next day reported on Tony Blair: "Standing ovation: nine mins 13 secs—and clapping during a four-minute film while he was offstage." Clearly a retiring performer's last hurrah.

The standing ovation has its defenders. As Fraser puts it, there are discerning audiences, and generous audiences, and ignorant audiences, but at least there are audiences. Nor does the devalued, inflated ovation reflect a lack of sophistication. Audiences, generally speaking, are more knowledgeable than they used to be, says Botstein. Perhaps swollen ticket prices are partly to blame, if you're shelling out a few hundred dollars to take the family to see *The Producers* or *Blue Man Group*, you may be desperate to convince yourself it's a masterpiece. The clapping may also be about an audience's eagerness to participate. "It's good that Broadway audiences, and New Yorkers in particular, don't sit on their hands like the reserved Brits," says Heilpern. "But their habitual standing o's often seem as if they're applauding themselves for being there." That goes for the rest of us, too. We are perhaps the opposite of those *claqueurs* we pay to clap, thank you very much.

But the problem may run deeper. The profusion of ovations may reflect a broader depreciation of praise in society. "When I read recommendations for people," says Botstein, "everybody sounds like Einstein and Mozart. But they're not—can't be true. We are drowning in words and praise and hyperbole, and part of that is the clapping."

Botstein would like to give a concert where people boo. "It shows they care about what they're hearing," he says. Norris, likewise, says what's more flattering than an entire audience standing is "people looking as if they're thinking about it." But the truly gratifying response from a crowd is silence. The greatest compliment Norris saw paid to a musician was in Winnipeg, after Bramwell Tovey, now with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, conducted a piece by Delius. "When it ended, very softly, very beautifully," he recalls, "there was absolute silence from the audience. Bramwell laid down his baton and there was still complete silence. And Bramwell left the stage, and there was still silence, and the extra players for the next piece came on, and still this hush was maintained—until Bramwell appeared again, and then the house fell in." Nobody was standing. It wasn't necessary. M

THE CAST take their bows after a 1972 performance of the Metropolitan Opera in New York

BURT GLINN/MAGNUM PHOTOS

MACLEAN'S

BESTSELLERS

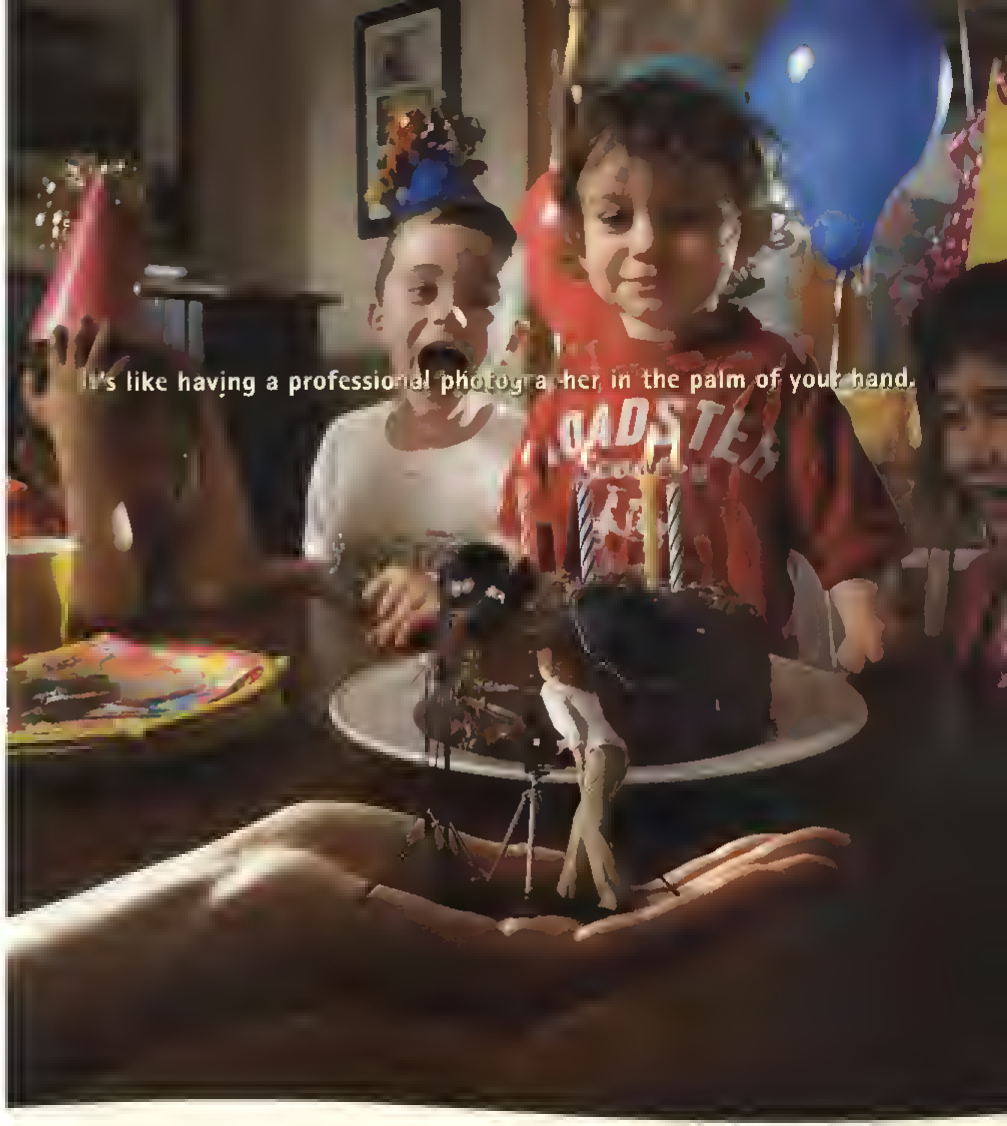
COMPILED BY BRIAN BETHUNE

Fiction

		LAST WEEK (WEEKS ON LIST)
1.	THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BRIDGE by Mary Lawson	2 (5)
2.	THE CUSTODIAN OF PARADISE by Wayne Johnston	1 (7)
3.	SECRETS FROM THE VINYL CAFE by Stuart McLean	6 (2)
4.	THE THIRTEENTH TALE by Diane Setterfield	7 (3)
5.	ECHO PARK by Michael Connelly	(1)
6.	THE VIEW FROM CASTLE ROCK by Alice Munro	3 (7)
7.	THE LAY OF THE LAND by Richard Ford	(1)
8.	MORAL DISORDER by Margaret Atwood	9 (8)
9.	MISSION SONG by John le Carré	4 (7)
10.	THE FRIENDS OF MEAGER FORTUNE by David Adams Richards	10 (4)

Non-fiction

1.	THE GOD DELUSION by Richard Dawkins	8 (3)
2.	HEART MATTERS by Adrienne Clarkson	4 (7)
3.	THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE THUNDERBOLT KID by Bill Bryson	6 (2)
4.	I FEEL BAD ABOUT MY NECK by Nora Ephron	7 (4)
5.	DECCA by Jessica Mitford and Peter Sussman	(1)
6.	NIXON IN CHINA by Margaret MacMillan	3 (5)
7.	STATE OF DENIAL: BUSH AT WAR, PART III by Bob Woodward	1 (4)
8.	CITIZEN OF THE WORLD by John English	2 (3)
9.	THROUGH THE CHILDREN'S GATE by Adam Gopnik	9 (3)
10.	THE WAY IT WORKS by Eddie Goldenberg	5 (5)



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BULLET OUT OF THE BLUE Blanchett plays an American tourist in Morocco who's critically wounded by a random shot fired by a child

Dazed and confused in no man's land

In 'Babel,' Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett lead a mondo brigade of actors without borders

BY BRIAN D. JOHNSON

Some people will think of it as the new Brad Pitt movie, the first he's appeared in since play acting that slapstick spy-vs.-spy breakup with Angelina Jolie in *Mr. and Mrs. Smith*. Others may think of it as the new Alejandro Gonzalez Iñárritu film, the final mosaic in a trilogy by the Mexican director that includes *Amores Perros* and *21 Grams*. However you look at it, *Babel* rocks the zeitgeist with uncanny prescience and urgency.

This drama of dislocated lives—four interlocking stories of parents, children and the borders that divide them—was shot on three continents. When Iñárritu was filming it, he had no way of knowing how timely it would be. Last year, when shooting with Pitt in a Moroccan village on the edge of the Sahara Desert, he could not have known that Pitt and Jolie would become parents of an Ethiopian orphan named Zahara, then turn a small African country into their maternity ward; or that, on the eve of *Babel*'s release, Madonna would stir up global controversy by using her wealth and influence to adopt a Malawian child.

The Madonna melodrama would be quite at home in *Babel*, a movie about children severed from their parents by borders of one kind or another. Iñárritu's film reimagines the global village as the Tower of Babel, with families fractured along fault lines of escalating incomprehension. It's neither a Hollywood movie nor a foreign film. Shot in four languages, it's a mongrel work of virtuosic moviemaking that throws one of the biggest stars on the planet into scenes with non-professional actors—Saharan villagers—who have never heard of him.

Pitt's storyline is just one piece of the narrative puzzle. He and Cate Blanchett play Richard and Susan, an American couple who are taking a half-hearted vacation in Morocco while still devastated by the loss of a child. They're riding a tour bus through the desert when, out of the blue, a gunshot shatters the window and strikes Susan in the neck, leaving her critically injured. The bullet was fired by a Muslim boy fooling with an old rifle on a hillrop. But as a report of the shooting ricochets through the media, there are rumours of terrorism. Meanwhile, Susan clings to life as the couple is stranded in a remote village with a busload of impatient tourists. Two cultures lie dangerously intertwined, like electrical wires with their insulation stripped.

Another storyline revolves around a Mexican nanny, an illegal immigrant employed by a wealthy California family. Desperate to attend her son's wedding, she takes the two children in her charge across the border into Mexico without their parents' permission. These wide-eyed kids are uprooted from their cushy suburb and plunged into rough-and-tumble Tijuana. And as the nanny's drunken brother (Gael Garcia Bernal) drives them back across the border, taking a wild detour into the desert, we know that this well-intentioned field trip will not end well.

Babel's third narrative takes place in a different colour, the urban maze of Tokyo. The story concerns a deaf-mute teenage rebel who courts erotic mischief and torments her remote father (Kôji Yasujiro) with anger and grief over her mother's death. In a script that's daisy-chained with serendipitous links, the Tokyo piece is the most tangential element. There's an obvious logic to having a deaf-mute in a movie about raging incomprehension. But the director's taste for mondo exoticism seems gratuitous in this portrait of a cute Japanese schoolgirl trying to break her silence with acts of sexual bravado.

Yet Iñárritu stages melodrama with such immaculate realism that you don't stop to question its authenticity. *Babel* represents a landmark of sorts, bridging Hollywood diversion with art-house diversity. Although the action unfolds in four countries, it's rooted in none of them. All the characters fall out of bounds and become marooned on a borderline where nothing is sacred and no one is safe. Pitt, his hair grey with middle-aged angst, is just another helpless American in the wrong place at the wrong time. When the protagonist is fate, heroism is useless.

Screenwriter Guillermo Arriaga, who also wrote *Amores Perros* and *21 Grams*, has perfected the looping, multi-track drama. And with movies like *Traffic*, *Syriana* and *Crash*, it has become a mainstream genre. These films inhabit a world where connections, not characters, are larger than life—a no man's land where we're all accidental tourists, and hope is the ultimate contraband. M

WE'RE STALKING NAOMI CAMPBELL

The British model risks losing her U.S. work visa following her arrest for an alleged assault last week. Campbell has had previous run-ins with the law over her temper, including reports of belting a maid with a cellphone and slapping around an assistant. This time, she's alleged to have slapped her own drug-rehab counsellor in London. Campbell was in Britain renewing her U.S. work visa, which may be stalled by the current investigation.

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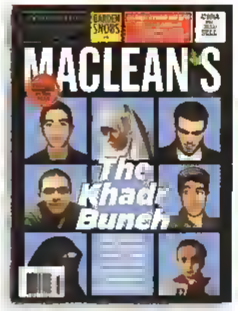

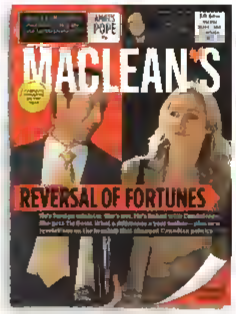

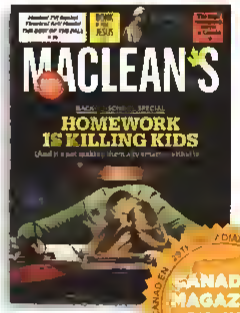

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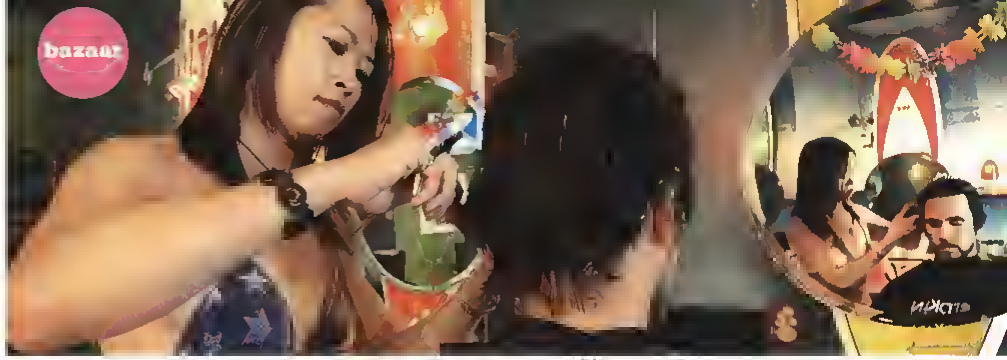

PARADISE CUTS opened in Fairfax, Va., just last month. The work uniform is a bikini, and the tips are almost as much as a haircut.

Just a little bit off the top, please

Complete with bikini-clad stylists, hair salons aimed at the Hooters set are on the rise

BY JOHN INTINI • Blaine Harris thinks he owns the perfect men's barbershop. His Saint John, N.B., location, built in 1890, has well-worn hardwood floors, a few traditional barber poles, and three black leather swivel chairs (circa 1945). He also stocks a full assortment of men's magazines—including *Field & Stream* and *Air Force*—for his clients to flip through while waiting for a trim, or one of his famous straight-blade shaves. A seven dollar haircut (five dollars for students and children) at Lancaster Barber Shop also comes with some lively debate, often about sports—Harris is a lifelong Boston Red Sox and Bruins fan. And customers can grab an A&W root beer candy or a lollipop on the way out from a big jar next to the cash register.

But for those who prefer eye candy, several U.S. chains are sexing up the all-male salon aesthetic. Haircutters targeting the Hooters crowd are popping up all over the U.S.—and will likely be in a Canadian strip mall near you next year. They are, according to those who run them, for men who want pampering but aren't comfortable in a unisex salon or one of the shops that have opened in recent years aimed at so-called metrosexuals. In the U.S., there are more than 400 Sports Clips franchises—with big screen TVs and female stylists who talk sports—and about 60 Knockouts, where hairdressers wearing black shorts and tight T-shirts (made by American Apparel) cut hair from inside a faux boxing ring while clients sip on a beer and flip channels on flat-screen TVs. Some of the "ringside services" include manicures, pedicures and massages.

Last month, Rudy Lilly and Mike Blot opened a beach-themed barbershop in Fairfax, Va., that they plan to franchise, called Paradise Cuts (Bob Marley and Jimmy Buffett songs often pound from the speakers). In Paradise—at least in this case—the all-female staff work in bikinis. (In one of the upcoming print ads, the caption under a photo of four girls in bikinis reads, "So you say you don't like barbershop quartets?") "At first, a couple of the women were a little bit nervous—a little tentative," says Lilly, 43. "But after a day or two that's gone and it's now just a work uniform."

One that helps earn their stylists better tips than they could ever expect at a typical salon. "The guys appreciate the girls in bikinis," says Lilly, "and are willing to tip a little bit more for that." On a US$25 trim, Lilly says that many tip about US$10. At Knockouts—where cuts range between US$15 and US$25—there are no rules against stylists dating clients, but they are told not to flirt. It's not surprising that most of the employees at these establishments are pretty women in their 20s and 30s.

The thought of having scantily clad women traipsing around a salon with a pair of shears and a blow dryer raises some eyebrows. Lilly says that before finding their current strip mall location (next to a jeweller), he and Blot were turned down by a prospective landlord. But he's quick to counter claims that his business is demeaning to women. "You could almost say we're exploiting men's weakness," says Lilly. "Everything you look at is somewhat sexist. Even the evening news anchorwomen are usually perky, pretty women." All hires are professionally trained. "We have to make sure the guys get a good haircut," says Lilly, "or else they're not going to come back."

Lilly says his wife's only reservation with his new business venture was related to the start up costs. Knockouts' CEO Tom Friday actually went into business with his wife, Karin, who is the Texas-based company's president. They founded the company a little less than two years ago; Friday expects to double the number of Knockouts locations in the U.S. next year and branch out into Canada (Friday is looking for someone to run the business north of the border). "We've had franchisees make a profit in their first month," boasts Friday, adding that it costs US$125,000 to open the doors of a new Knockouts.

Still, none of the U.S. businesses in this niche market take it as far as a salon in Montreal did in the late '90s. There, haircuts were priced according to how much the stylist had on. For $25, a customer could get his hair cut by a woman in lingerie. For $5 more, she would take off her top. And for $45, she would totally disrobe. "Back then the younger guys would tease me and ask when I was going to bring in one of those girls," says Harris. So has he given any thought to having barbers in bikinis? "The old folks around here," he laughs, "would probably have heart attacks." M

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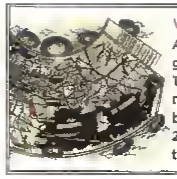
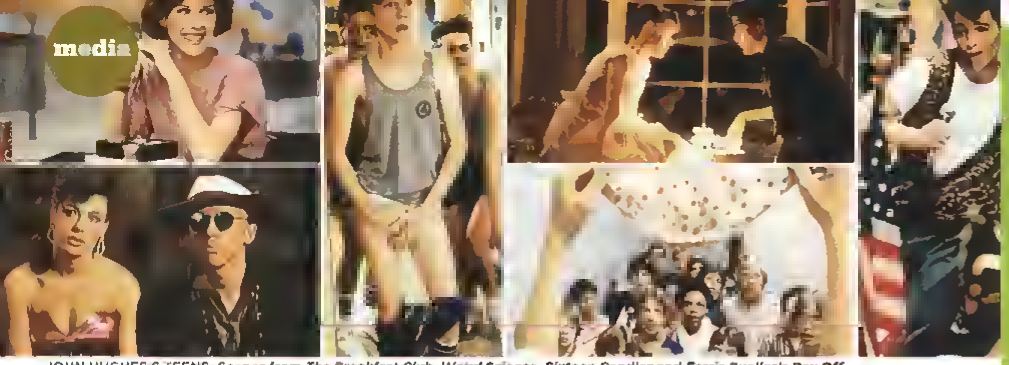


WHAT THEY GOT FOR T **THE FIRST PRINTED ATLAS**

A 1477 edition of an atlas based on work by the second century geographer Claudius Ptolemy has sold in London for $4.5 million. The price, paid by an unidentified bidder, topped the previous record for an atlas of $3 million. The atlas was the first ever to be produced on a printing press and was almost lost to a fire in 2004, which raged through the estate of the book's former owner, the late Lord Wardington.



JOHN HUGHES'S TEENS: Scenes from *The Breakfast Club*, *Weird Science*, *Sixteen Candles* and *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*

The man who understood teenagers

A new documentary appeals to John Hughes, who hasn't made a film in years, to come back

BY SHANDA DEZIEL • They just don't make teen movies like they used to, sighs every thirtysomething who remembers wanting to be Molly Ringwald or be with Molly Ringwald. Anyone who grew up in the era of John Hughes's *The Breakfast Club*, *Weird Science*, *Sixteen Candles*, *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, etc., thinks that the teens of today are getting short shrift from *American Pie*, *Not Another Teen Movie* and anything starring Lindsay Lohan or the Olsen twins. But it turns out this is not just one generation's nostalgia or condescension. According to a new documentary, *Don't You Forget About Me*—which examines the lasting impact of Hughes's movies—today's teens also rate those films as the ones that best represent the way they look, feel and act. According to the filmmaker, Matt Austin, "All the teens we interviewed said that they can't relate to any of the movies that have come out for them in the last decade." So Austin had the teens send a message to Hollywood and to Hughes. "To Hollywood," says Austin, "they gave the finger and to Hughes they said, 'Come back'."

That's not likely to happen. Hughes, 56, hasn't directed a film since 1991's *Curly Sue*. Every once in a while he pops up with a writing credit—providing a story outline or as a script editor—but otherwise, he's completely distanced himself from Hollywood. He hasn't given an interview since the '80s (even then, they were few and far between)—and is thought to be living in Chicago or maybe Wisconsin. He's the J.D. Salinger of the movie biz. But it's become Austin's mission to get the recluse on camera. (The documentary is in the last stages of production.)

After many dead ends, the filmmakers finally made a connection with Hughes's lawyer. "He's on our side," says Austin, "but even he says, 'Good luck, John Hughes just doesn't do interviews'." So Austin is putting together a clip reel of people he's talked to—teens, actors, filmmakers inspired by him—all saying, "Thank you" or "Come back." Austin plans on giving that video to every single person who might be able to get it to Hughes. "Right now, I'm very hopeful that we're going to get him. My genuine feeling is we'll get a call."

Austin didn't have trouble finding other people to talk about Hughes. He and his writing partner Lenny Panzer had the idea one day, and by the next day they had producers, Kari Hollend and Michael Facciolo, and an interview set up with Ally Sheedy (*The Breakfast Club*). The film was in production within a week. "On other projects, when you tell people what you're doing you get a mix of reactions," says Austin, 28. "This is the first thing I've ever worked on where immediately everyone smiles and thinks it's a great idea." He interviewed actors Judd Nelson (*The Breakfast Club*), Mia Sara (*Ferris Bueller*), Kelly LeBrock (*Weird Science*), as well as Simple Minds, who did *The Breakfast Club* theme song, *Don't You Forget About Me*. He also has Roger Ebert, director Kevin Smith, the producers of *Napoleon Dynamite*, *Degrassi* creator Linda Schuyler, and other big names talking about the genius of Hughes.

The consensus is that Hughes understood the awkwardness of being a teenager, he didn't shy away from real emotions, and he cast actors that looked the way teens look—acne, braces, unwieldy bodies and all. "I identified most with Anthony Michael Hall," says Austin, referring to one of the "brat pack" stars. "I was the blond haired, gangly kid with the headgear. I could see myself in the characters he played but I never saw him as a geek. He was a hero to me, he got to hang out with all these guys. And he was witty and funny."

But teens don't feel the same about the current crop of actors. "When you look at Molly Ringwald," says Austin, "she's very attainable. The kids we interviewed said all the girls in movies today, and the guys with square jaws, aren't attainable." Back in the days of *Weird Science*, the only perfect-looking girls—like LeBrock's Lisa character—were the ones the teenage boys created themselves. Now all the females in teen movies are curvy and well-endowed. Or super skinny like Lohan. And the guys are impossibly buff, like Chris Klein. It's giving kids a warped sense of self, says Austin. "They see Seth on *The OC* and say, 'That's the geek?'."

Austin wants Hughes to see the film and know the extent of his impact. But it's even more important, he says, for the documentary to reach those who haven't fled Hollywood. "We're making this so people who do make teen movies say, 'Oh, so that's what a teen feels like, or that's what a teen's concerns are. We just thought it was sex and mobile phones.' M

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Tax Benefits and Government Rebates Futura may be the only rewards program in the world that helps members take advantage of government incentives, tax breaks and grants to bolster their savings. Because the program currency is cash based, members enjoy significant advantages when channeling their Futura Rewards into government registered financial products. Members directing rewards into any Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) are eligible for an additional 20 – 40 per cent top up from the Canada Education Savings Grant (CESG) and members choosing to direct rewards into any RRSP enjoy the associated tax relief. The education grants can be significant, with the CESG providing up to $7,200 per child, the Canada Learning Bond $2,000, and the Alberta Centennial Education Savings Plan Grant $800. To help members tap into all the benefits an RESP has to offer, Futura has partnered with Heritage Education Funds, one of Canada's leading providers of RESPs, with over $1.2 billion in assets under management and 41 years of RESP expertise.

Redeem Existing Points Some rewards programs allow swapping out with Futura, points or miles earned in other loyalty programs can be converted into cash savings. Futura has an agreement with Points International (www.points.com) allowing for the cash conversion of loyalty currencies provided by partners such as Esso Extra, Alaska Airlines, TripRewards, Priority Club Rewards and American Express.

Futura members can also convert Best Western Gold Crown Club Points and Save-On More points through direct relationships with those programs. Visit the Futura website (www.FuturaRewards.ca) for information.

INFORMATION SUPPLEMENT

Canadians are avid consumers but often find it difficult to save for long-term goals. With Futura, members save while shopping for everyday products and services at participating retail or grocery locations, shopping online, using the program's cash-back credit card or converting points or miles from other programs into Futura Rewards. Members earn cash savings as a percentage of each purchase or a fixed amount, depending on the partner offer, and direct these savings to financial products like RRSPs, RESPs, or student loan repayments. Futura allows members to save without thinking about it.

"The expansion of KidsFutures into Futura makes a lot of sense," says Points International CEO Rob MacLean. "We have a lot of interest from our members in converting points into cash-like assets, so we are thrilled to be working with Futura."

Futura was launched on October 18, 2006 as an expansion of the successful KidsFutures® Rewards program that allowed members to save money toward their children's future education costs. After consumer enquiries and partner company requests to use the KidsFutures' popular cash-based currency for financial goals other than education savings, the Futura Rewards Program was created, allowing anyone to save toward personally relevant financial goals.

The trick with long-term compounded savings is to start as soon as possible. Saving even small amounts on a regular basis will amount to thousands over a lifetime. If two members with linked accounts each save $10 a week in Futura Rewards, they could accumulate over $15,000* in 10 years. The benefit of Futura is that you can save toward any number of financial dreams without even thinking about it – it's painless! Futura is helping Canadians meet their financial goals. There is definitely something for everyone with Futura.

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The Citi KidsFutures MasterCard allows you to accumulate cash rewards toward your personal financial goals, including retirement, education costs, or even student loan repayment. The card, with no annual fees, provides up to 2 per cent cash back from Citibank to your Futura member account, based on your annual spending. The 2 per cent cash back is in addition to the 1 - 3 per cent retailer-funded rewards you can earn at over 1,100 participating retail partner locations. This compounding effect dramatically increases member earnings.

Since the Citi KidsFutures MasterCard introduction, it has become an earning catalyst for many of the program's top reward earners.

One top-earning member is Michelle (last name withheld for privacy) of Port Coquitlam, B.C. Michelle and her husband and brother all use the Citi KidsFutures MasterCard as their primary credit card for both personal and work-related purchases. They have also linked their program reward accounts in order to combine their savings for Michelle's daughter's education. Since becoming members in the spring of 2005, they have earned $2,213 in cash rewards, and deposited them in a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP), where their reward contributions will earn an additional 20 to 40 per cent bonus, thanks to the Federal Government's Canada Education Savings Grant (CESG).

Futura offers more ways to earn cash rewards than many other reward programs. Members earn Futura Rewards by purchasing hundreds of partner products, shopping with in-store retail or online partners, using the Citi KidsFutures MasterCard, converting other rewards currencies into cash rewards or taking advantage of offers from the program's insurance, mortgage broker and real estate partners.

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PITY THE CONSUMER: From lunch boxes to chewing gum, Mr. T was as much a pop-culture icon as he was an international superstar

He's teaching fools some basic rules

After years in obscurity, Mr. T is back to show us just how ridiculous '80s culture could be

BY JAIME J. WEINMAN • What would you think of a huge man with a violent temper, a limited vocabulary and a tendency to throw people across a room? You'd think he was scary, or dangerous. But there's a man who has been famous for over two decades, mostly because he growls and threatens everyone with violence. It's Mr. T, star of the new reality series *I Pity the Fool* (The Star! Channel), in which he yells at strangers and helps them solve their problems. After years in semi-obscurity, T is back, and he's tougher than ever. Or as he says in the opening of *I Pity the Fool*: "I'm teaching fools some basic rules!"

The unusual thing about Mr. T's resurgence in popularity is that it's not based on anything he's done recently. T, originally Lawrence Tureaud, hasn't had an acting success since the mid-'80s, when he appeared in the movie *Rocky III* and fought bad guys on the TV series *The A-Team*. But several years ago, even though Mr. T wasn't doing anything new, there was increased interest in him—not so much in his work as in his persona, the mohawk-sporting, jewellery-wearing, catch-phrase-spouting symbol of all things '80s.

It was '80s nostalgia that brought T back into the spotlight, says Katie Henkel, who runs the site *MrTvsEverything.com*. "Everything '80s is coming back again. Transformers, Cabbage Patch Kids, neon clothes with shoulder pads. If the bad things from the '80s can come back, why not the good things? Besides, Mr. T is hella tough, and that kind of thing is timeless." Websites like Henkel's, and shows like *I Pity the Fool*, are aimed at the people who were kids in Mr. T's heyday.

Signs of Mr. T-mania aren't limited to cable television. *Saturday Night Live* cartoonist Robert Smigel has done several animated cartoons parodying the '80s cartoon series *The Adventures of Mr. T*. A publishing house in England—where *A-Team* reruns are tremendously popular—published a Mr. T comic book, which tries to turn him into a brooding, self-doubting action hero: "I think crime fighting is pointless," he laments at one point, though nobody really believes him.

Mr. T material is also hugely popular online. Excerpts from his educational video, *Be Somebody or Be Somebody's Fool*, get hundreds of thousands of views on the Internet, especially his rap song *Treat Your Mother Right* ("M is for the moan and the miserable groan from the pain that she felt when I was born"). *MrTandMe.com* collects and displays all the Mr. T merchandise ever produced; you may have known that there were Mr. T lunch boxes, but you have to surf the Net to find out about Mr. T "Gold Chain Bubble Gum" and "Mr. T's Little Buddy Mr. S."

There's even an entire genre of self-produced Mr. T content: the Mr. T webcomic, where Internet users combine Photoshopped images to create stories about T getting revenge on a pop-culture or political figure. Henkel's site collects links to all these stories; one of the most famous is "Mr. T vs. Santa Claus," in which Mr. T beats up Saint Nick and takes over his job. "Don't make me laugh, fool! Leave your toys on the shelf. Check out my cannon! I made it myself!"

There's a campy tone to a lot of this Mr. T content, a sense of how ridiculous '80s pop culture could be. Only in that decade could a former bouncer with a mohawk have become one of the world's biggest stars. *I Pity the Fool* is as much a spoof of T as it is a tribute; a lot of the segments try to mine comedy from putting the familiar Mr. T persona in an incongruous situation, like having him try to sell cars. The underlying joke of the show is that T is still acting like it's the '80s and he's in his prime, while the rest of the world has moved on and finds him kind of strange.

In an odd way, Mr. T is like another cult favourite, Borat: just as Sacha Baron Cohen stays in character all the time, even in interviews, Lawrence Tureaud disappeared long ago and became Mr. T. And that's the way his fans like it; they see Mr. T not as a performer, but as a real-life figure who happens to be exactly like the person he plays on television. "It seems to me that he isn't acting," says Henkel. "He's really like that in real life. I mean, if he wasn't, wouldn't it be exhausting keeping that act up all the time?"

But whether or not the Mr. T persona is real, the Mr. T cult certainly is, and it's even starting to get a little highbrow. Greg Rivera, creator of *MrTandMe.com*, was in Toronto last weekend at the Resistor Gallery, doing an exhibit of T merchandise called "I Pity the Dolls!" Mr. T dolls and a semi-reality show: that's art. M

MADONNA'S ADOPTION ACCORDING TO TV

"That's a brave thing that you did. Anybody who understands what it's like to raise a child knows it couldn't possibly be anything other than coming from the heart, because it's a full-time job. Bravo."—Oprah Winfrey, during an interview with Madonna

"The New York Yankees have assured Alex Rodriguez that he will not be traded—they can't rule out the possibility that he would be adopted by Madonna and she would move away."—David Letterman

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Why young grads are choosing Denturism

As a career choice Denturism offers everything a young professional could hope for independence variety prosperity and the chance to bring a smile to thousands of faces

Independence

Most Denturists run their own businesses set their own hours and work independently Denturists are proud to be self-employed and responsible for their business and clinical environment

Prosperity

Denturism is a career with excellent long-term prospects. As Ontario's population ages, demand for health care services in general and Denturist services in particular will continue to grow In fact there is already more demand for Denturist services than there are graduates. As a specialized oral health care professional Denturists can earn incomes that are well above the national average

Technical Ability and Problem Solving

A Denturist is directly involved in all aspects of the technical procedures that go into creating dentures and related devices. Skilled hands-on work is a big part of the job understanding patients needs and communicating with patients is the first step in the process

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- immediate dentures (a denture made prior to tooth extraction and placed immediately after teeth are pulled)
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- repair of broken dentures
- relining and rebasing of loose dentures
- soft liners

Other services that may be offered by Denturists, include mouth guards, tooth whitening and anti snoring devices

Becoming a Denturist in Ontario

Toronto's George Brown College currently offers the only accredited Denturism program in Ontario Students are trained in treatment planning as well as in the design, construction and fitting of full, partial and immediate dentures Students study biology, microbiology, oral pathology, health promotion, management and Denturist practice, with all areas observing international standards. For more information, visit www.georgebrown.ca/healthsciences

Variety

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The College of Denturists of Ontario

The College of Denturists of Ontario (CDO) is a member of the Federation of Regulated Health Colleges of Ontario and is the regulatory body that certifies (licenses) and governs Denturists within the province of Ontario The mandate of the CDO is to serve the public interest by maintaining the highest standards of qualification and ethics for its members in accordance with the Regulated Health Professions Act and the Denturism Act

Denturists must be registered (licensed) with the College of Denturists of Ontario in order to practice in Ontario Their Certificate of Registration (license) must be prominently displayed in their office

Excerpted from the Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) Job Futures website

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STEWART IS GENEROUS In her tips for the domestically and IQ-impaired: Store paint upside down but make sure to seal it well first

Martha Stewart just isn't herself

The drill sergeant's new housekeeping tome sadly lacks her obnoxious perfectionism

BY ANNE KINGSTON • What have they done with Martha Stewart? The real Martha would never have posed for the cover of her new 744-page *Martha Stewart's Homekeeping Handbook*. It must be a Stewart clone standing there in dappled sunlight vigorously cleaning a pane of glass, a beatific expression on her face. Just look at her tools: lint-producing paper towels and generic store-bought window cleaner True, the imposter exudes Stewart's seemingly medicated calm Yet inside, on page 549, familiar Martha rightly recommends windows be washed with one part vinegar, one-part water and damp cloth or wet squeegee ("a dry blade will skip," she explains) Then, on page 485, her lint-residue paranoia is reassuringly evident with her tip to wet Q-tips ("to reach delicate areas") lest they leave an unsightly trail.

Alas, such un-Martha-like disregard for detail is the least vexing aspect of Stewart's surprisingly late-to-the-party primer that skims every household surface from screens to towel weaves With it, she joins the long tradition of housekeeping books written by women who were never full time housewives, and puts her legacy on the line Isabella Beeton, a young British mother and journalist, pioneered housewife-guilt-lit with her 1,112-page *Mrs Beeton's Book of Household Management* In 1861, written for a generation of women confused by the Industrial Revolution's effects on the domestic arts "I have always thought there was no more fruitful source of family discontent than a housewife's badly cooked dinners and untidy ways," she wrote The advent of consumerism and home economics prompted the American educator Catharine Beecher and her sister Harriet Beecher Stowe, the author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, to write *The American Woman's Home*, a paean to Yankee ingenuity and frugality published in 1869

More than a century later, Cheryl Mendelson, a lawyer with a Ph D in philosophy, tapped into the cultural moment with her 1999 blockbuster *Home Comforts: The Art and Science of Keeping House*, 845 pages of answers to questions most people are now too domestically inept to ask the temperature to keep a refrigerator (above 32°F, below 40°F) and how to roll socks (three options with diagrams) Her audience, bewildered by cleaning labels on clothing and unsure soft cooked eggs are safe, occupy houses filled with material luxury but devoid of order and civility Mendelson provided a Martha Stewart antidote with her focus on how a house works rather than how it looks She argued, as did Ralph Waldo Emerson, that the household bridges public and private realms, as such, the erratically kept house is not only a haven for dust mites, food poisoning and disorder, but also an incubator of asthmatic, fat, ADD addled children

Stewart skips such moralizing, yet her effort feels hollow, shrill, even wasteful in comparison Her preoccupation with the upkeep and purchase of objects rather than the nurture and care of people is glaring (the book's flimsy index has one reference to "paella pan," none to "E coli") Where Mendelson waxed poetic about homemaking as a virtue, even a pleasure ("it is your housekeeping that makes your home alive, that turns it into a small society in its own right, a vital place with its own ways and rhythms ..."), Stewart is drill-sergeant brusque "Households are busy places, works in progress where there is always something requiring immediate attention and always something more that can be done" Of course, in the Stewartian universe, Sisyphean schedules and complex checklists for "floral supplies" are virtues in themselves A Lady Macbeth-like tone prevails, particularly in the obsession with melted wax removal from all manner of surfaces Yet in her tips for the domestically and IQ-impaired Stewart is generous dust light bulbs only when they're cool Store paint upside down but seal it well first Put heavy items on the bottom of the dishwasher, fragile ones on top That said, it would be easier to create an origami swan in the dark than fold fitted sheets according to her instructions

Incarceration did not diminish Stewart's glee for bourgeois trivia which style of sofa matches which kind of decor; what a "dobby border" on a towel is, the edicts that pictures must be hung 60 inches above the floor, and that the "perfect" lamp shade is two-thirds the height of the base There's comfort to be found in such rules, of course But far more, strangely, in the knowledge that Martha Stewart's perfect cover finally has been blown M

ROBYN CUMMING

MOST IMPROVED LUTHER VANDROSS

The R&B singer is getting closer with his family after a period of estrangement brought on by his burial last year Mary Ide Vandross, Luther's mother, plans to have his remains disinterred and moved closer to his equally dead siblings Mary Ide explained the move to an interviewer "When you saw one, you saw the other They were always very close" She has further plans of digging up her late husband, Luther Sr, so he can join the family reunion

How can Harper mend a broken heart?

SCOTT FESCHUK

Advice to the lovelorn, from Canada's leading political figures.

Dear Ken Oryden:
My husband and I have been married for 26 years and we just don't communicate anymore. He comes home from work, eats in front of the TV and goes to bed. We barely speak! What should I do?
—Frustrated in Fredericton
Dear Frustrated:
I used to play hockey. And when I played hockey—which, by the way, I played—we had a saying. It was a saying about the playing of hockey—which, FYI, I did. By which I mean I played. Hockey. Anyway, the saying went: pay attention while playing hockey, because after you're done playing hockey, which I played (that "which I played" bit isn't part of the actual saying—I'm just reminding you), you can use the events that transpired during your hockey career as elaborate and excruciatingly repetitious metaphors for your next career. And so to answer your question let me just say that, yes, to my mind Bobby Orr was the greatest hockey player ever.

Dear John Baird:
I admit it—I'm a bit of a hothead. But my wife now says she'll leave me if I don't keep my temper in check. Can you help?
—Cranky in Calgary
Dear Cranky:
JUST DO WHAT I DO AND KEEP REMINDING YOURSELF IT'S CRUCIAL TO MAINTAIN A CALM AND CIVILIZED TONE AT ALL TIMES, MORON!!!

Dear Joe Volpe:
My fiance went on a road trip to Vegas with his buddies, and when he came back he smelled of perfume. Plus I found some disturbing things in his car, like a pair of women's underpants—which wouldn't have bothered me so much if they weren't still on that cocktail waitress who claims to be his wife now. My fiance says I'm imagining things—should I believe him?
—Vexed in Vancouver
Dear Vexed:
Oh sure, ask the Italian guy! Italians know all about screwing around on their fiancées, don't they? And when you find that cocktail waitress stuffed in the trunk and covered with your boyfriend's fingerprints, I bet you'll be writing to dear old Uncle Joe again, won't you, asking what to do. Like I'd have any idea how to dispose of a body by wrapping it tightly in a heavy tarpaulin, weighing it down with four construction-grade cinder blocks secured by grade 43 high-test chains and dumping it into a body of water with a depth not less than seven metres with minimal localized currents. You sicken me.

Worried about commitment? Communication? Jealousy? Our leaders have all the answers.

Dear Stephen Harper:
My boyfriend and I have been dating for four years now. He's a good guy but he's not big on commitment. I keep hinting that I want to get married and he keeps avoiding the subject. What should I do?
—Miffed in Montreal
Dear Miffed:
How did you get this address? Listen, I don't have a lot of time for this kind of thing. Let me just say this about your "problem"—don't blame your boyfriend. This is just another example of the Liberal party's culture of entitlement. The Liberal party had 13 years to propose to you and they didn't get it done! That said, you need to set a deadline to motivate your boyfriend. Tell him it's over unless he pops the question by 2050.

Dear Michael Ignatieff:
Remember me? I wrote in a few weeks ago asking for advice about my girlfriend, who cheated on me. You told me to not to lose sleep over it. But some of my friends keep saying that what she did was pretty bad and I shouldn't let her just get away with it. I don't know—what do you think?
—Hesitant in Hamilton
Dear Hesitant:
I said that? Wow. Well, that was clearly an error of communication. With the benefit of hindsight, I can now say with great confidence that your girlfriend is one big-time slut! A real loose Lucy. Welcome to Whoresville, population: you. That kind of thing. Take it from me: go tell her all that and your problems will vanish. You're welcome!

Dear Peter MacKay:
I just broke up with my girlfriend and, man, it's been tough. She's taking it really hard. She's become kind of reckless in her behaviour—sleeping around with any low life dude who makes the moves on her in some dingy night club. What should I do?
—Worried in Winnipeg
Dear Oan:
Ugh, what a hangover! But I just remembered I have to answer some loser's advice letter today. Could you do it for me, buddy? I totally scored last night with some hot and reckless chick—I couldn't believe my "If I told you you had a beautiful body would you hold it against me?" line finally worked. I'm back, baby! M

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TOM HANSON/CP

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COMEDIAN Sedaris is the self-medicated Martha Stewart

BOOKS 1

HOSTESS WITH THE MOSTEST

I Like You: Hospitality Under the Influence is a modern kitsch classic. Hilarious, eccentric, poignant and sometimes rude, Amy Sedaris's advice to hosts and guests is a bracing antidote to the pretentious primers that dominate the field. Though obsessive (this is a woman who theme decorates her front door), Sedaris shuns ambitious hospitality. "Remember, the goal is to entertain, not overtain," writes the actress/author/comedian. The hospitality needs of lumberjacks, rich uncles, first dates, children, the elderly, pets and the bereaved are all carefully expounded. In dealing with the grieving, Sedaris evinces Holly Golightly pluck: "Pre-crack the liquor bottles. Nobody wants to be the first, especially at a wake." Nor does she shy away from sabotaging her own visitors—by going as far as booby-trapping the medicine cabinet. "Nothing announces a nosy guest better than an avalanche of marbles hitting a porcelain sink."

A sweet, zany, generous spirit ribbons throughout, as do dozens of unfussy Eisenhower-era recipes destined to usher in a new appreciation of cheese balls, beef tenderloin, coconut cake and devilled eggs. Sedaris advises against ever inviting too many people in the same line of work: "the result can be geeky shoptalk, and that's not a party—that's called a convention." Tolerant of self medication, she's unyielding with the inebriated. "Better to cut them off rather than pretend it's not happening and then allow them to stay over and wet your bed." And, like every wise host, she knows when to call it a night. "The moment someone says 'Hey everyone, listen to the words in this song,' your party is over." *Anne Kingston*

EXHIBITS 2

GRAZIE, ITALY

If you missed it in Montreal, you can still catch *Italian Arts & Design. The 20th Century* at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto starting Oct. 28. Italy hasn't produced monumental art movements since the Baroque, but it's been the avant-garde of the international design scene since the last century. The exhibit features nearly 300 works, from Pucci to Bugatti, showing the full spectrum of aesthetic responses to the industrial age—proving Italy's love affair with *bel disegno* (beautiful design) lives on. *Michelle Tarnopolsky*

BOOKS 3

JAZZ TALKIN'

Much of Ross Porter's book *The Essential Jazz Recordings. 101 CDs* contains fightin' words for long-standing jazz fans, especially in Porter's more recent selections (Pete Christlieb? Richie Cole? Mark Isham?). But the cognac-voiced radio host/station manager at Jazz FM in Toronto isn't writing to impress fellow aficionados. This is an introductory text, and Porter's easygoing odes to classics by Oscar Peterson, Duke Ellington and dozens of others are aimed at the bewildered jazz neophyte. *Paul Wells*

PERSONALITY 4

BIG BAD BALDWIN

Whether he's telling his assistant to book a 4 a.m. tee time or informing Tina Fey's character that her shoes are "definitley bi-curious," Alec Baldwin (*30 Rock*) has become a larger-than-life on-screen presence. No one does charming, oblivious ego like he does. And he's finally getting the credit he deserves—on the TV show and in *The Departed*, where he bests other showy performers, including Jack Nicholson and Mark Wahlberg. *Shanda Deziel*

FILM 5

WHISTLIN' DIXIE

Filmed over a span of three years, *Shut Up & Sing* is a time-lapse portrait of grace under fire. It follows the Dixie Chicks from being the top-selling female group of all time to becoming the target of a vicious right-wing backlash after singer Natalie Maines criticized George W. Bush. The Chicks inspire as they forge art out of misfortune. And with her insolent candour, Maines is the most mesmerizing subject of a music doc since Mick Jagger in *Gimme Shelter*. *Brian D. Johnson*

DVD 6

DON'T CRY, HAWKEYE

One of the best extra features on the new 36-disc *M*A*S*H* DVD set doesn't have anyone who was involved with the series: it's 25-minutes' worth of fans gushing about TV's longest-lasting war. One is pleased that "it always had a lesson." The show still impresses—the first to combine comedy and drama in an effective way, though there are too many episodes where Hawkeye cries. The set contains all 11 seasons, the original movie, and two discs of extras. *Jaime J. Weinman*

MUSIC 4

ARE THE HIP HIPPER?

From its synth-pop, dance-beat start, *In View* doesn't sound like a Tragically Hip song. And when the singing breaks in, you'd think someone else in the band has taken over lead vocals. But no, it's Gord Downie fronting a reinvigorated Hip—at least on this first single. It sounds a lot like the band is taking cues from more in-fashion compatriots like Broken Social Scene, Arcade Fire or Stars. Too bad those indie artists still sell a fraction of the records that the Hip do. *Shanda Deziel*

BRIAN SCHUBERT

1940-2006

A pioneer in BASE jumping, he was a big, tough cop known for compassion and Christmas chili

Brian Schubert, the eldest of four children, was born in Chicago on June 23, 1940. His father Belden was a Greyhound bus driver—he later became an accountant—and his mother Rosalie was a beautician. After the birth of their second son, Dennis, but before the arrival of identical twin daughters Karen and Karel, the family moved to Los Angeles, before finally settling in Claremont, Calif.

Brian was a bright kid who was never really challenged in school. A good athlete, he was popular (especially with girls), and had a pair of fancy feet—in 1956, he and a high school friend won a televised dance competition. But his life was nearly cut short when, at 16, he was stabbed in the chest by a friend during a card game. "He stabbed him with a knife from his parents' kitchen," says Karel. "My brother went home and just lay on his bed. I don't think he was going to tell on the boy. Luckily, my mom came home. They rushed him into surgery. The knife went in a quarter-inch from his heart. A quarter inch closer and he'd have died. But my brother forgave him later in life. He had him at his house on Christmas Eve and helped him when he had cancer."

Before graduating from high school, Brian joined the army and was stationed for three years in the late '50s with the 82nd Airborne in Germany (while there, he earned his high school equivalency). "He got his love of skiing in Berchtesgaden," says Karel. That's also where he learned to box and, as a paratrooper, discovered a passion for skydiving.

After returning home, he married Christine Marxmiller in 1961. They had their first child, Tina, that year (Cindy, their second daughter, was born about two years later). The young couple divorced in 1965, and though Brian moved to Barstow, Calif., he remained a very important part of his daughters' lives—as well as his ex-wife's.

In Barstow, Brian met Mike Pelkey. Both 26, the two men shared a great love for skydiving. When Mike suggested they leap from Yosemite's El Capitan cliff because "nobody had done it," Brian didn't flinch. "He was the poster boy of fearlessness," says Mike. After an eight-hour climb, the 3,000-plus-foot plunge on July 24, 1966, was determined, years later, to be the first ever BASE jump (BASE is an acronym for building, antenna, span, earth.) Not that Brian, who crash landed on the rocks below, was in any shape at the time to enjoy his status as an extreme sports pioneer. "He said he heard every bone in both feet break," says Mike. "And he got his boots off as soon as he could because he knew his feet were going to swell."

After the accident, Brian walked with a limp and was told he'd never walk properly again. But that didn't stop him from jumping. "He made several more skydives—even after his licence was suspended," says Tina. "On one, he landed on his foot just right and knocked the calcification loose and never walked with a limp again."

Brian, who worked with Mike at a tool-and-die shop, was also his best man. Years later, Mike named his first son after Brian—even though the two had lost touch. Brian had moved to Pomona, Calif., to join the police force (which required he stop skydiving), and the Pelkeys had moved to Michigan. In 1971, after a few years on the beat, Brian married JoAnn Jones, who had an 18-month old daughter, Michelle, from a previous marriage.

During his 23 years as a police officer, Brian also studied part time. He earned a B.A. in behavioural science from California State Polytechnic University, and a master's in public administration from the University of La Verne. He was a tough cop with a softer side—he'd pick homeless men off the street and take them out for lunch before dropping them off at a shelter. He rose to lieutenant before retiring in 1989 and starting a private investigator business.

Soon after he and JoAnn divorced in 1994, Brian bought a Harley-Davidson. He loved hitting the road with a group of cops and firemen (including his son-in-law, Tina's husband Kurt Lindebaum). Brian also collected high-priced model trains, including a $10,000 engine. "I recently said, 'Dad if you're ever hurting for money, you can sell a train,' " says Tina. "He said, 'no way, this is my grandkids' inheritance.' " Family—which included eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren—came first. And Christmas Eve at the Schuberts was a tradition. "He was famous," says Tina, "for a military-pot-sized chili."

Although muscular, the avid hunter and fisherman was, at times, 100 lb. overweight. But he'd trimmed 80 lb. in the last year, recently tipping the scales at 210. Back surgery last year, however, slowed him down, and Brian was scheduled for a bilateral knee replacement next month—he had no cartilage left in his knees. That's why he decided to mark the 40th anniversary of his first BASE jump with an 876-foot drop into water. On Oct. 21 in Fayetteville, W.Va., with 145,000 watching (including Tina and Mike, who had reconnected with his old friend after four decades), Brian jumped from a bridge over the New River Gorge. But his parachute didn't fully open in time. When he hit the water, he died instantly. **BY JOHN INTINI**

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